

**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**Matters of Business of the City Council**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

January 14, 2021, 7:00 PM  
Meeting by Remote Participation  
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**NOTICE**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone’s Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of the City Council will be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

**Register at the following website to view this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6724380431140517900>.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

1. Roll Call            Call of the Roll.  
(ID # 24036)
  
2. Remembrances    Remembrances.  
(ID # 24038)
  
3. Minutes            Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,  
(ID # 24037)        December 10, 2020.

**CITATIONS**

4. Citation            By City Councilor Rossetti, McLaughlin, and the Mayor  
(ID # 24061)        Commending Acting Deputy Chief Michael Anzalone,  
Lieutenants Thomas Bellini and Danielle O’Hearn, and  
Firefighters Mark Wall, Ryan Epps, Christopher Carroll,  
John O’Connor, Douglas Henry, Hallam “Alex”  
Massiah, and Charles Conway for their life saving  
actions, exemplifying the highest traditions of the fire  
service.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

5. Grant of            Submitted by Verizon to install 130 feet of conduit in  
Location            Broadway from Manhole 27 at the intersection of  
(ID # 24057)        Medford St and Broadway to a Handhole at the  
intersection of Dexter St and Broadway.

6. Grant of Location (ID # 24058) Submitted by Eversource to install 379 feet of conduit in Broadway from Manhole 30103 at the intersection of Boston Ave and Broadway to Manhole 24938 at the intersection of Winchester St and Broadway.

**ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

7. Order (ID # 24009) By City Councilor Strezo  
That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss installing speed limiters on the city's vehicles to monitor speed and ensure that employees are observing speed limits.
8. Resolution (ID # 24011) By City Councilor Strezo  
That the Administration consider a partnership with community partners to implement a science-based presentation and dialogue about the COVID vaccine's availability and effectiveness, and to address any concerns residents and city employees may have about it.
9. Resolution (ID # 24012) By City Councilor Strezo  
That the team leader of the Somerville Trotter Collaborative Report discuss with this Council the findings of the report and how the study could be best used to benefit the community as a whole.
10. Order (ID # 24024) By City Councilor Davis, Ewen-Campen  
That this Council create an ordinance adopting MGL c184 s36, establishing a tenant opportunity to purchase.
11. Resolution (ID # 24030) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Niedergang  
That the Spring Hill Streetscapes design team continue to work closely with the Somerville Bicycle Committee and Somerville Bicycle Safety to propose improved bicycle safety infrastructure on and near the redesigned Highland Avenue, balanced with pedestrian safety, MBTA bus improvements, and ADA infrastructure.
12. Order (ID # 24031) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Director of SPCD discuss with the Land Use Committee the fair housing amendment recently passed in Boston that requires new developments to be reviewed for impacts on displacement and housing discrimination.
13. Order (ID # 24032) By City Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Commissioner of Public Works present this Council with a detailed financial analysis of the cost for a municipal program to clear snow from sidewalks in business districts and major thoroughfares.

14. Order (ID # 24033) By City Councilor Niedergang  
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council on traffic management and calming plans for the streets and neighborhoods around the five Green Line Extension stations expected to open before the end of this year.
15. Order (ID # 24034) By City Councilor Niedergang  
That the Director of SPCD discuss with the Land Use Committee whether tattoo parlors should need a Special Permit to operate on Pedestrian Streets and in other areas.
16. Resolution (ID # 24035) By City Councilor Clingan, Scott, and the Mayor  
Supporting the decriminalization of entheogenic plants.
17. Communication (ID # 24025) By City Councilor Mbah  
Reporting on the search for a Racial and Social Justice Director.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

18. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 24023) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on January 12, 2021.
- B. Mayor's Request 209705 Requesting confirmation of the re-appointment of Orsola Susan Fontano to the Zoning Board of Appeals.  
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- C. Mayor's Request 211063 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Tim Talun to the Urban Design Commission.  
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- D. Mayor's Request 211064 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Heidi Cron to the Urban Design Commission.  
RECOMMENDED: Approved.
- E. Mayor's Request 211065 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kerri Connolly to the Urban Design Commission.  
RECOMMENDED: Withdrawn

19. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 24022) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on January 11, 2021.

- B. Order 205448 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Director of SPCD provide recommendations on making the intersection of Summer and Central Streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- C. Resolution 207499 By City Councilor Hirsch, Niedergang, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Mbah  
That the Administration respond to the requests outlined in the attached resident petition, organized by the Pedestrian and Transit Advocacy Group, to accelerate traffic calming investments and improve coordination and oversight.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- D. Resolution 207723 By City Councilor Hirsch, Ballantyne  
That the Administration discuss thoughts on negotiating with the MBTA for discounted or free fare for children and low-income adults by sharing or bearing the cost of the passes.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- E. Order 207918 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Director of Traffic and Parking urgently prioritize pedestrian safety at the intersection of Walnut Street and Highland Avenue, which was identified as one of the most unsafe intersections in the city.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- F. Public Communication 207996 8 residents submitting comments re: #207499, a proposal to accelerate traffic calming investments.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- G. Order 208045 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That the Director of SPCD update the Ward 3 City Councilor on plans for raised crosswalks on Summer Street at Belmont and/or Lowell Streets, as well as other nearby traffic calming improvements.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- H. Resolution 208275 By City Councilor Scott  
That the Traffic Commission approve the creation of a crosswalk at 45 Beacon Street.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Order 208383 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott  
That the Director of SPCD install sturdy steel posts around the southeast corner of Nunziato Park, in light of the May 25 car crash that sent a vehicle through the fence and into the picnic tables where children often gather.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- J. Order 208923 By City Councilor Hirsch, Ballantyne  
That the Director of SPCD or the Director of SomerStat develop an estimate of funding required to pay for or subsidize MBTA fares for residents of different income levels and ages.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- K. Order 209442 By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the Director of SPCD add more bike racks to the West Somerville Neighborhood School.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- L. Order 210738 By City Councilor Niedergang  
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council, no later than December 22, 2020, the Administration's response to the traffic calming petition submitted by 10 residents of Rogers Avenue between Kidder Avenue and Boston Avenue/Broadway.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- M. Order 210827 By City Councilor Clingan  
That the Director of Parking install a NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER sign on Forster Street at the Central Street end of the roadway.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- N. Resolution 210894 By City Councilor Davis, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.  
That the Administration expand and maintain the use of bollards and other pedestrian safety measures citywide so they are replaced immediately as needed.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- O. Order 210967 By City Councilor Niedergang, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Strezo, Davis, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.  
That the Director of SPCD explain to this Council in writing the Administration's opposition to deploying speed bumps, with less than a half-dozen installed citywide.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- P. Order 210993 By City Councilor Niedergang, Strezo, Ballantyne  
That the Director of SPCD review the attached presentation by Zachary Rosenberg, Chair of the Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee, and report to the Traffic and Parking Committee how the successful traffic calming measures implemented in the Netherlands can be replicated here.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- Q. Order 211053 By City Councilor Niedergang  
That the Director of SPCD report to this Council on traffic calming for the stretch of Broadway between the Ball Square Bridge and Cedar Street.  
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

**COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

20. Mayor's Request (ID # 24029) Requesting the appropriation of \$321,874 from the Salary and Wage Stabilization Fund to various departmental Personal Services Accounts in order to adjust non-union staff salaries for FY21.
21. Mayor's Request (ID # 24026) Requesting the use of \$74,543 in Available Funds in the E-911 Personal Services Account to fund FY21 salaries and benefits per the Agreement with SEIU Local 888, E-911 Call Taker/Dispatchers Chapter.
22. Mayor's Request (ID # 24013) Requesting acceptance of a \$89,234.57 grant with no new match required, from the State E911 Office to the Police Department for 911 training and the certification of 911 telecommunicators.
23. Mayor's Request (ID # 24007) Requesting acceptance of a \$83,616 grant with no new match required from the MA Office of Public Safety and Security to the Fire Department for staffing costs.
24. Mayor's Request (ID # 23908) Requesting acceptance of a \$45,555.55 grant with no new match required from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Emergency Operations Center sustainability and upgrades.
25. Mayor's Request (ID # 24010) Requesting acceptance of a \$40,000 grant with no new match required, from the MA Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for traffic enforcement programs.
26. Mayor's Request (ID # 23994) Requesting acceptance of a \$38,930 grant with no new match required from the MADoT Shared Streets and Spaces Program to the Mobility Division for bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Wellington Bridge.
27. Mayor's Request (ID # 24028) Requesting authorization to seek funding and enter into related agreements for Conway Park from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and rededicate Conway Park to open space and recreational use in perpetuity.
28. Mayor's Communication (ID # 24060) Conveying information to accompany requests to confirm the Police Reserve candidates.

**COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**

- 29. Officer's Communication (ID # 23993) City Solicitor responding to #211035 re: Mayor's Emergency Order Establishing a Moratorium on Eviction Enforcement.
- 30. Officer's Communication (ID # 23942) Director of Parking responding to items approved at the 12/10/20 meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 31. License/Permit (ID # 24050) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Strongback Systems.
- 32. License/Permit (ID # 24039) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Cinema Taxi, Med #14,16,44,47,57,58,63,81,84,85.
- 33. License/Permit (ID # 24049) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Lochmere Taxi, Med #21,22,23,24,25,26,79,91.
- 34. License/Permit (ID # 24041) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Green and Yellow Cab TNC of Somerville, Med #27,33,34,35,36,37,38,53,54,67,68.
- 35. License/Permit (ID # 24046) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Ormond Transportation, Med #49,50,89.
- 36. License/Permit (ID # 24047) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Silcor Transportation, Med #51,77,93.
- 37. License/Permit (ID # 24042) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Talkd Transportation, Med #55.
- 38. License/Permit (ID # 24040) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Ike Inc, Med #61,78,92.
- 39. License/Permit (ID # 24044) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, DLCS Transportation, Med #62.
- 40. License/Permit (ID # 24048) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Alewife Transportation, Med #80.
- 41. License/Permit (ID # 24043) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Honey Cab, Med #82.
- 42. License/Permit (ID # 24045) Renewing Taxi Medallion License, WWJJKK Inc, Med #90.

- 43. License/Permit (ID # 24051) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Gene Automotive, 56 Joy St.
- 44. License/Permit (ID # 24052) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Real Auto Shop, 39 Webster Ave.
- 45. License/Permit (ID # 24053) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Webster Auto Sales, 61 Prospect St.
- 46. License/Permit (ID # 24054) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, Green Automotive, 600 Windsor Pl.
- 47. License/Permit (ID # 24055) Renewing Used Car Dealers License Class 2, James Kiley Co, 15 Linwood St.
- 48. License/Permit (ID # 24056) Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Dr.
- 49. Public Communication (ID # 24059) Sam Judd proposing a zoning amendment to re-zone his property at 256 and 278 Elm, 58 Day, and 7 Herbert Streets to a mix of Civic and CC4.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

- 50. Communication (ID # 24062) By City Councilor Rossetti Reporting on the December 2020 meetings of the Wage Theft Committee.
- 51. Order (ID # 24066) By City Councilor Rossetti That items 210800, 210801, 210802, 210803, 210804, 210970, 210971, 210972, 211017 and 211037 be discharged from the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters.
- 52. Order (ID # 24064) By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Chief of Police utilize the Department's Crime Analyst to track and document police interactions with the public in order to identify possible racial profiling.
- 53. Order (ID # 24065) By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Director of Personnel implement anti-race and gender bias training for all city staff and include said classes for all new hires.



- 54. Order (ID # 24068) By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the Chiefs of Police and Fire discuss with this Council, by the end of February 2021, the staffing requirements for their respective departments, as there are suggestions that staff counts should be changed.
  
- 55. Order (ID # 24069) By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the Director of SPCD provide a list, by ward, of which small businesses have received the small business COVID relief grants.
  
- 56. Order (ID # 24070) By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the Director of SPCD add text “prohibiting any recipient businesses from interfering with their employees seeking to form a union.”
  
- 57. Order (ID # 24071) By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the City Solicitor draft a home rule petition to change all pronouns in the City Charter and the City Ordinances to gender-neutral.
  
- 58. Order (ID # 24073) By City Councilor Ballantyne  
That the Director of Communications advise the community via social media of all shootings and violent crimes that occur in Somerville.
  
- 59. Mayor's Request (ID # 24063) Requesting to appear in Executive Session to discuss negotiating position and litigation strategy with respect to 191 Highland Ave.
  
- 60. Mayor's Request (ID # 24067) Requesting to appear in Executive Session to discuss Somerville public safety and security matters.
  
- 61. Mayor's Request (ID # 23995) Requesting acceptance of a \$10,000 gift with no new match required, from the Somerville Public Library Foundation to the Public Library.

**LATE ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**