



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

JILL LATHAN
DPW COMMISSIONER

ERIC WEISMAN
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Date: November 13, 2023

RE City Council Orders

Low-hanging wire Orders: 231363, 230996, 230884, 230083, 2300790, 230788, 230787, 230783, 230780, 230610, 230525, 230524, 23028

There have been numerous requests from the council to the Commissioner of Public Works to address low-hanging wires, wires wrapped around utility poles, etc. In emergency cases of fallen wires on the ground, wires on vehicles, etc. please call 911.

For other non-emergency cases such as wires wrapped around utility poles, please reach out directly to Eversource. The number for Eversource is 800-592-2000.

Order: 215223- *That the Commissioner of Public Works report on leaks and building system failures that have caused the shutdown of municipal buildings, excluding school buildings, in the last five years.*

The only City building that was closed in the last five years is 90-92 Washington this fall. This building was closed due to the need to replace the roof. Due to our aging infrastructure, we have many buildings that need roof replacements. DPW has done significant repairs. However, there is only so much patch and/or repair that can be successful before a replacement is necessary. DPW has budgeted for Traffic & Parking and the Annex roofs to be replaced. Central Fire station, due to complexities, is next to be considered.

Other roofs such as City Hall will be replaced as part of the Capital plan, which can be found here- <https://city-somerville-ma-budget-book.cleargov.com/5132/capital-improvements/cip-summary>

Order: 214992- *That the Commissioner of Public Works immediately remove, or raise to a safe height, the cables attached to a pole at the intersection of Harvard and Monmouth Streets, and report to the City Council who owns the pole.*

This is a permitted service loop of fiberoptic wire owned by Crown Castle, which the DPW cannot remove. The pole belongs to Eversource, and the utility must correct the issue.



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Order: 230889- *That the Commissioner of Public Works fill the potholes on the unfinished side of Otis Street.*

This has been completed.

Order: 230891- *That the Commissioner of Public Works inspect the tree wells in front of 173 Broadway for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*

The Tree Warden assessed the sidewalk. There is still 40” of clearance maintaining an ADA compliant pathway. We will continue to observe the tree wells to see whether they become an impediment as the tree grows.

Order: 231187 - *That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Council to discuss what actions have and can be taken to ensure that trash and recycling barrels do not obstruct sidewalks after pick-up.*

This is an extremely important issue to the Department of Public Works. The DPW has met with Boston Carting LLC numerous times on this issue. Most recently, on September 6, 2023, Boston Carting hosted an on-site training with drivers and helpers to confirm expectation on barrel placement after collection. We believe that this training session has significantly helped the issue.

Order: 231184 - *That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management report on recent air conditioning failures in City Hall and what repairs have been or will be completed to address those issues.*

The City Hall Air Conditioner was damaged due to the construction at the Central Hill campus. As a result of the ongoing construction, access to repair the chiller unit has been impeded. Now that the construction is wrapping up, the DPW will focus on contracting repairs to the system.