



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Monday - March 1, 2021, 6:00 PM
Virtual

AGENDA

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 a City Council Committee 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.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8843607730941152781>

1. Approval of the February 1, 2021 Minutes

COVID/Vaccine

- 2. 209978: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on contingency staffing plans in case a large number of front-line employees are unable to work due to illness or self-isolation.
- 3. 211220: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Strezo, Clingan, Scott, Davis) – That the Covid-19 response team update the Committee on Public Health and Safety on the Phase 2 vaccine roll-out for residents, particularly senior citizens and other vulnerable residents.
- 4. 211221: Discuss** (Strezo, Scott, Clingan, Davis) – That the Directors of Health and Human Services and the Council on Aging collaborate to bridge the digital divide for residents seeking to obtain the Covid vaccine who may not have access to the internet.

5. **211222: Discuss** (Mbah, Scott, Strezo, Clingan, Davis) – That the Administration help residents over 75 years of age sign up for Covid-19 vaccinations.
6. **211223: Discuss** (Mbah, Niedergang, Strezo, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Ballantyne, Scott, Davis) – That the Administration include teachers on the priority list as the vaccine distribution plan is rolled out.

Schools

7. **210741: Discuss** (Mbah, Ballantyne, Clingan, Niedergang, Ewen-Campen) – That the Administration appear before this Council to give a report on the Public School building reopening plans.
8. **211320: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Strezo, Mbah, Rossetti) – That the Administration, with the Director of Health and Human Services, share a re-opening plan for schools and businesses which defines goals, risks and contingencies.

Services for people experiencing Homelessness

9. **211325: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Davis) – That the Director of Health and Human Services prioritize homelessness outreach workers for upcoming COVID-19 grant funding to better address the increased demand for homeless services.
10. **211326: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Davis) – That the Director of Health and Human Services develop a plan for a warming center or engagement center to address increased homelessness in the community due to COVID-19.

Supervised Injection Site

11. **208691: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Hirsch) – That members of the recently established Safe Injection Site Task Force appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss their findings in a public forum.
12. **208692: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Hirsch) – That the Director of Health and Human Services provide the City Council with a copy of the Safe Injection Site Task Force recommendations.
13. **208261: Discuss** (Clingan, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Health and Human Services highlight any funding for drug treatment during the budget process.

Other (To consider placing on file)

14. **209930: Discuss** (Mbah) – That this Council urges Governor Baker to enact a single-payer health insurance system during this pandemic to reduce the bureaucracy for Covid-19 testing

and treatment, and to make such testing and treatment free to those without health insurance.

15. **209934: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on the City’s disaster preparedness assessment for emergencies during this pandemic and how this reduces our first responders' workforce.
16. **209940: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Scott) – That this Council collaborate with the Administration to create a one-page coronavirus information sheet that can be physically delivered to every resident and small business owner, containing public health information, emergency resources, and instructions on where to get more information.
17. **209977: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on planning underway to provide housing for people who are likely to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus and need isolation, or are recovering from the virus and don't need a hospital setting.
18. **209798: Discuss** (Hirsch, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Health and Human Services appear before this Council with an update on measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus and to support anyone who may become infected.
19. **209979: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on any efforts to ensure that city trash and recycling contractors are protected from coronavirus exposure and supported if exposed.
20. **209999: Discuss** (Mbah, Niedergang, Ballantyne, Clingan) – That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety with an update on their plans to keep first responders safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. **210112: Discuss** (Clingan) – That the Director of Health and Human Services collaborate with the appropriate state agencies for the support, specialized services, medical supplies and personal protective equipment necessary for residents with complex medical needs to stay in their homes during this COVID-19 crisis.
22. **210126: Discuss** (Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Niedergang) – That the Mayor consider increasing the minimum age for mandatory wearing of face masks to children over 5 years of age.
23. **210460: Discuss** (Davis, Ballantyne, Rossetti, Scott) – That the Administration and the Traffic Commission cease all dedicated Tufts shuttle stops and remove all associated signage in Ward 6, particularly in Davis Square, without delay.

- 24. 210134: Discuss** (Strezo, Ballantyne) – That the Director of Communications create signage to post citywide reminding the public of the penalties and public health risks associated with COVID-19 for littering used masks, gloves and wipes.