



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 8, 2014

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Vice Chair	Present	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Alderman Tony Lafuente, Alderman Katjana Ballantyne, Alderman Mark Niedergang, Alderman Dennis Sullivan, Solicitor Frank Wright, Asst. Solicitor David Shapiro, Omar Boukili - Mayor's Office, Michael Glavin - OSPCD, Barbara Rubel - Tufts

197473 - Proposing an amendment to the City's Ordinances to regulate University Accountability.:

This item was based on a City of Boston ordinance with the intent of assisting various city agencies to better protect the health, safety and welfare of students, residents and property.

Information about off campus living is available on Tufts' Residential Life website, however, there is no mention of Somerville's ordinance regarding the number of unrelated persons allowed to live together. Members of the committee feel that incoming students should be informed of the city's zoning ordinances by Tufts. Tufts wants to work with the city on this issue and is working on a program that would prevent students from registering for classes unless they have provided the university with a living address. However, Tufts doesn't want to be perceived as the enforcer of the city's regulations and would like to have a conversation about this.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Shapiro spoke about penalties for failure to comply, noting that such penalties are not spelled out in the ordinance. The Law Department will follow up on this and report back to the committee. Additionally, the Law Department will determine if any other school owns property in the city, since the city could only enforce this ordinance locally.

It was understood that tenant overcrowding is not just a problem with the student population, therefore, members stated their desire for ISD to enforce the current ordinance that deals with this.

Members of public spoke favorably on the proposed ordinance, discussing the student housing lottery, student enrollment, lack of on campus housing, miscommunication about the data being collected, public safety and possible socio-economic divisions.

Alderman Rossetti's motion that a representative of the city's Inspectional Services Department be present at all future meetings where this item is scheduled for discussion, was approved.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE