



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

November 29, 2017

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
John M. Connolly	Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Vice Chair	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Absent	

Others present: Doug Kress - HHS, Annie Connor - Legislative Liaison, Rositha Durham - Clerk of Committees.

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Connolly and adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Approval of the November 15, 2017 Minutes

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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203802: That the City Solicitor and the Superintendent of Inspectional Services provide this Board with a plan to address the use of AirBnB for whole house rentals, including communications to residents who report such uses.

Ms. Connor reported that she has spoken with ISD about monitoring and enforcement of short term rentals and said that an updated Airbnb list was sent out to the committee members last week. ISD has been actively reviewing Airbnb properties that have issues.

Chairman Connolly handed out a document from Host Compliance, a company that helps people to handle Airbnb properties. Chairman Connolly also suggested that the Solicitor's Office prepare a draft ordinance that also includes owner occupied properties, for review by the BOA's Legislative Matters Committee. Ms. Connors is working with Attorney Philips, from the Solicitor's Office, to start the drafting process for the city's ordinance. Chairman Connolly would like an update and a general outline prior to the BOA meeting on December 14, 2017. Alderman Rossetti asked Ms. Connor about a community meeting that was discussed in the last PHPS meeting and Ms. Connors said that she believes there may be a way to have a community meeting to review the draft ordinance.

Chairman Connolly's motion that the City Solicitor prepare a draft ordinance to address Airbnb rentals, including owner occupied properties, as discussed at this meeting, was approved.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

203988: That the Mayor's Legislative Liaison and appropriate city staff attend a meeting of this Board's Public Health and Public Safety Committee to review Airbnb matters before the Committee.

See discussion of #203802.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

202776: That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services, with the assistance of other departments as necessary, forward to this Board's Committee on Public Health and Safety a list of AirBnB-type lodging facilities in the city.

See discussion of #203802.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204128: That the Administration convene a meeting to discuss airplane noise, similar to a meeting being held in Cambridge, and include congressional representatives, the state delegation, elected city officials and city staff.

The Administration will convene a meeting to discuss this matter further.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

202922: That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with the Committee on Public Health and Safety, the plan for using any proceeds realized from medical marijuana facilities.

Mr.Kress spoke about a facility that had a soft opening and also about a third facility that went through the planning process in Union Square. Changes have been made to legislation regarding medical marijuana facilities and proceeds are now limited to 3% of sales. Mr. Kress is not sure where the city will put the funds. Funds could be grants for support housing for recovering or substance abusing individuals. Mr. Kress suggested one use for the funds could be to extend the abuse counsel in the schools from part time to full time.

Data regarding the first facility opened in mid-September will be available during the first week of December. Funds will be received every six months, commencing seven months after the first opening. Alderman Rossetti asked if the funds would be placed into a revolving account. Mr. Kress will prepare an outline of the process before the next meeting and Alderman Rossetti suggested that language be included for grant opportunities.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204673: That the Director of Health and Human Services distribute the policy of medication distribution to children who are on field trips with the Public Schools.

Mr. Kress spoke about nurse delegation of medication for school trips. He will provide a document detailing the process with the nurses.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204674: That the Director of Health and Human Services distribute the policy regarding nurse coverage during after-school programs housed at the Public Schools.

Mr. Kress said the city will provide coverage during after school programs and is currently in negotiations with the nurses' union on this matter.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204634: That the Director of Health and Human Services provide the Committee on Public Health and Safety with a report, within 30 days, on plans to use any proceeds realized from medical marijuana facilities.

See discussion of #202922.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

203801: That the Administration establish a Pedestrian Safety Committee to promote pedestrian concerns and provide feedback from a pedestrian perspective.

Ms. Connor reported that she spoke with Brad Rawson from OSPCD, who would like to start broader community action with pedestrians and a specialized group through the Division Zero program.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204463: That the Administration revise applicable ordinances and policies to prevent construction crews from closing sidewalks unless accommodations for safe pedestrian passage have been made, including the presence of detail officers at mid-block crossings if needed.

Ms. Connor provided information about the lack of police details during construction work. She reported discussing this matter with the Director of Traffic and Parking, who said there should never be a situation where both sidewalks are closed. Contractors are supposed to have a permit with a transportation management plan. There was also discussion about there being a shortage of detail officers for construction work. Ms. Connor has looked into this matter and is revising applicable procedures. Alderman Rossetti asked Ms. Connor what can be done about the shortage of detail officers.

Alderman Rossetti's motion *that the Chief of Police appear before the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety by January 2018, with supporting documentation, to report on the shortage of detail officers*, was approved.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204633: That the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure send copies of the planned January bicycle safety mailing to the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety prior to mailing it to residents.

The committee asked that the mailing be sent to the full BOA.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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204636: That the Administration discuss the issue of pedestrian and traffic safety as it relates to sidewalk and roadway closings due to construction.

See discussion of item #204463.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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202763: That this Board's Committee on Public Health and Safety determine the extent of soundproofing to be installed for the Green Line Extension.

Ms. Connor said that MassDot is required to do soundproofing and will have a report back to the committee on what will be done on this matter. The committee requested that updates on this matter be provided to the committee on a regular basis.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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203004: That the Mayor work with the State Delegation on an agreement with the State to permit City crossing guards at the crosswalks at Highland Avenue and McGrath Highway, and to permit the Police Department to enforce traffic laws there.

Ms. Connor reported that this matter continues to move along.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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203594: That the City Solicitor draft an Ordinance prohibiting the public consumption of marijuana.

The Law and Police Departments would like to increase the fines in the ordinance.

RESULT:	KEPT IN COMMITTEE
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204635: That the Administration and the Chief of Police provide feedback on military technology and weapons capability and capacity.

Ms. Connor reported that the Police Department does not have military technology or weapons.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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204403: Conveying the Executive Policy on Surveillance Technology.

The Executive Policy on Surveillance Technology was distributed a while back and Ms. Connor will redistribute it to the BOA. Ms. Connor noted that no additional cameras have been added since the policy was signed.

Chairman Connolly's motion *that the Administration notify all members of the Board of Aldermen and the public when the Executive Policy on Surveillance Technology is posted on the City and Police Department's websites, within 120 days of the mayor's signing it by early February 2018*, was approved.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

204451: Conveying the School Department's Security Camera Policy to this Board's Committee on Public Health and Public Safety.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

Handouts:

- AirBnB info- (with 202776)
- AirBnB Facilities - (with 202776)
- Memo (with 204673, 204674)