



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 25, 2020

REPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Vice Chair	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	City Councilor at Large	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Absent	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One City Councilor	Present	

The meeting was held in the Committee Room and was called to order by Chair Rossetti at 6:15pm and adjourned at 6:59pm.

Councilor Clingan was absent due to a planned family vacation.

Chair Rossetti asked that a copy of the list of items to be provided to the Committee be sent to Chief Fallon. Councilor Scott will send.

Others present: Frank Wright - Law; Ellen Collins - Personnel; Khushbu Webber - Mayor's Office; Chief David Fallon - Police; Deputy Chief James Stanford - Police; Captain Rich Lavey - Police; Captain Christopher Ward - Police; Kimberly Wells - Assistant Clerk of Committees

209590: Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Police Officer Wolff Berrouet to the position of Police Sergeant.

Chair Rossetti noted that in a previous meeting, the request for this confirmation was approved. Councilor Scott subsequently went to the Police Department to confirm the discussion that took place in executive session, and found that a folder that was said to be empty was not. Councilor Scott requested an appropriately redacted packet of personnel information. Councilor Scott added that in the course of a conversation with Lieutenant Cannelli, it became evident that there were materials in the candidate's professional standards folder. After the Lieutenant declined to provide these, Councilor Scott called Solicitor Wright to formalize the public records request, and the materials were provided. Traditionally, these materials have been reviewed in executive session, as they relate to the candidate's character and performance, though the materials themselves are public records. Chair Rossetti noted that convening this additional meeting does not reflect the candidate's abilities, but it a matter of following proper policy and procedure. Chief Fallon clarified that Deputy Chief Stanford was told by the Law Office that only substantiated allegations needed to be shared with the Committee. Deputy Chief Stanford clarified for Councilor Scott that this has been the process for promotions, and was confirmed through Solicitor Wright, Deputy Solicitor McKenzie, and Personnel Director Cooper. Chair Rossetti noted that in previous interviews, all documents have been reviewed. Chief Fallon clarified that all documents were not

requested in this case. The understanding was that the file was nearly empty, as there was only one small claim that was substantiated. Any other allegations were incidents that the officer was exonerated of.

Councilor Mbah expressed confusion and disappointment that information was not provided. The Chief reiterated that he was informed that there was nothing substantiated in the professional standards folders. Councilor McLaughlin noted that he does not want to be held responsible for delaying promotions, but the correct information needs to be provided.

Councilor Scott moved to enter executive session to review protected personnel information or to discuss matters related to individual candidates pursuant to MGL c30A s21(a)(1). The motion was approved. No votes were taken in executive session.

The Chair noted that since the recommendation was approved in the last meeting, there is no need for a further vote.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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209591: Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Police Officer Steve St. Hilaire to the position of Police Sergeant.

Chair Rossetti noted that in a previous meeting, the request for this confirmation was approved. Councilor Scott subsequently went to the Police Department to confirm the discussion that took place in executive session, and found that a folder that was said to be empty was not. Councilor Scott requested an appropriately redacted packet of personnel information. Councilor Scott added that in the course of a conversation with Lieutenant Cannelli, it became evident that there were materials in the candidate's professional standards folder. After the Lieutenant declined to provide these, Councilor Scott called Solicitor Wright to formalize the public records request, and the materials were provided. Traditionally, these materials have been reviewed in executive session, as they relate to the candidate's character and performance, though the materials themselves are public records. Chair Rossetti noted that convening this additional meeting does not reflect the candidate's abilities, but it a matter of following proper policy and procedure. Chief Fallon clarified that Deputy Chief Stanford was told by the Law Office that only substantiated allegations needed to be shared with the Committee. Deputy Chief Stanford clarified for Councilor Scott that this has been the process for promotions, and was confirmed through Solicitor Wright, Deputy Solicitor McKenzie, and Personnel Director Cooper. Chair Rossetti noted that in previous interviews, all documents have been reviewed. Chief Fallon clarified that all documents were not requested in this case. The understanding was that the file was empty, as there were no substantiated claims. There were allegations that the officer was exonerated of.

Councilor Mbah expressed confusion and disappointment that information was not provided. The Chief reiterated that he was informed that there was nothing substantiated in the professional standards folders. Councilor McLaughlin noted that he does not want to be held responsible for delaying promotions, but the correct information needs to be provided.

The Chair moved to enter executive session to review protected personnel information or to discuss matters related to individual candidates pursuant to MGL c30A s21(a)(1). The motion was approved. No votes were taken in executive session.

The Chair noted that since the recommendation was approved in the last meeting, there is no need for a further vote.

RESULT:	WORK COMPLETED
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Handouts:

- Law Dept. Memo (with 209590, 209591)
- File - W Berrouet (with 209590)
- File - S St. Hilaire (with 209591)