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CITY OF SOMERVILLE

City of Somerville City Council Meeting

March 12, 2026

7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (EDT)
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>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: ...Meeting is being recorded.

>> [Roll call]

>> CLERK: With all 11 Councilors present we have a quorum.

>> Pursuant to rule 22, this Council salutes the flag of the United States of America, we believe and support the Constitution. We begin with a moment of silence.

>> I would like to recognize Barbara... Who passed away March 2 at the age of 72. This is a particular personal one for me because Barbara was my next-door neighbor. And there is some debate in the family whether it was for the last 20 years, or 40 years Barbara has been cared for at home by her devoted sister Pauline. They are a very big

part of our lives, the streets, life, my kids' life, and all the kids on the street and I want to read a little bit from the family obituary they wrote for Barbara.

Barbara was known for her big smile, chart with an enthusiastic present always up for the party. Since she preferred blue dresses, big earrings, bright lipstick, and longs to wear fancy shoes. Since Barbara had a live-in stylist and her sister Pauline she was enviably fashionable adding her own special sparkle to the room at holidays and family gatherings and Halloween was an especially favored time because she loved handing out candy and enjoying the neighborhood kids and their costumes.

Barbara Lutter television shows never tired of watching the Golden girls, the love boat or MASH, enjoy the familiar characters intended humor and she also loved feel-good movies and musicals from the sound of music to mama Mia, selected best which had time to spend time watching it with her and enjoy the laughs together and she spent the last 20 years at the -- And we as we keep the family in our thoughts this evening.

>> Any others?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I would like us to keep in our minds two groups of people that have been on my mind recently.

In the last six months over 20 of our neighbors have died in ICE captivity. And there is no reason that this should have been the deadliest year in prisons run by our government, detaining people that have no business being detained.

I would also like to keep in our hearts' well over 100 children in the school and Iran, that in the opening moments of yet another illegal conflict ... Being pressed by our country, our government. Died in a Tomahawk missile strike on their school. And the dozens of responders who were there who were killed with the second strike that followed just 20 minutes after.

I would ask that we keep the lives of all of those lost. And all those who are in increased danger due to the ... Horrific actions of our government, as we work to do better. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay. What everyone in the chamber please write as you're able for a moment of silence for the aforementioned individuals?

>> [Moment of silence]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

Madam Clerk first item.

>> CLERK:

1.3. Minutes

(ID # 26-0368) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved.

>> CLERK: 2.1. Citation

(ID # 26-0347) By Councilor Wheeler and Councilor Clingan

Commending the Kendall Wanderers Football Club on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: I will read the citation text aloud. Be here known by all that the City of Somerville Council offers are sincere accommodations on the softball club, on the count of their 50th anniversary, one of the oldest clubs and Massachusetts and recommended that impact as an athletic and social outlet for residents. I know Kendall Square is in Cambridge but there are a large number of people over the years who participated in Kendall Wanderers FC, who do live or have lived in Somerville, one of the many things that we set together as a cultural unity.

I am proud to have in attendance Jonathan -- of Kendall Wanderers FC.

I would like to present the citation.

Mayor Wilson has asked us to say a few words about the football club. You know that I would not let a soccer moment go in for those who do not know, the wanderers is not an uncommon thing to have in the title of a football club over in the UK and Ireland. It comes from clubs that have not had a homeground. There is a famous club that had no home state and played every game away from home. Want a lot of fans with that approach and the name has lived on particularly poignant for a club that is played such a big role for immigrants particularly from Ireland who come over, have found a home and Found community. And this has provided that tissue. And for those who have known this club over the years that is why we put this for a club based in Cambridge. But I am glad to join in recognizing this achievement that has done so much for so many people here in this area.

Thanks.

>> Okay next item.

>> CLERK: 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

3.1. Grant of Location Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 20

(ID # 26-0304) feet of conduit in Allen Street, from Utility Pole 3 to a point of pickup at 13-17 Allen Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I now declare clear this public hearing to be open. Is anyone here to speak on this item?

>> ... Utility coordinator for Comcast. The project is just pole number 3 on Allen Street, approximately 20 feet, 2-ft. deep trench to serve the new property.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Is anyone else here to speak on the item?

If you are online use the raise hand function.

Seeing none, I declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

Seeing no discussion, that item approved.

>> CLERK: 3.2. Grant of Location
(ID # 26-0305)

Dagle Electrical applying for a Grant of Location to install 57 feet of conduit and one new charging station in the City Hall Concourse, from the War Memorial to a point of pickup at the proposed electrical vehicle charging station.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I now declare the public hearing to be open. Is there anyone here to speak on the item?

Anyone online?

I now declare the public hearing to be closed; the item appears to be pretty self expiratory. Any discussions?

Seeing no objection that item is approved.

>> CLERK: 3.3. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to relocate

(ID # 26-0306) existing Utility Pole 60/40 four feet northerly of its current location, near 3 Chester Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare the public hearing to be open. Is anyone here to speak on this item?

Jackie Duffy.

>> Hi, good evening. Eversource would like to relocate pole 60/40. It is very difficult for firetrucks to make the turn at Chester Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Anyone else to speak on this item?

I now declare the public hearing to be closed. Any discussion?

Seeing none, that item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 3.4. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install (ID # 26-0312) 164 feet of conduit and one new Manhole in Grant Street, from an existing Manhole 1900 to a point of pickup at 299 Broadway.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare the public hearing open. Is there anyone here to speak on this item?

>> Jackie Duffy would like to install 164-ft. of new conduit, for new retail space, the old Stein Mart. Anyone else here to speak on the item?

Seeing no discussion, I declare the public hearing closed.

Any discussion?

That item is approved.

>> CLERK: 3.5. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 82 (ID # 26-0309) feet of conduit in MacArthur Street, from Utility Pole 122/2 to a point of pickup at 17 MacArthur Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare the public hearing to be open

>> Jackie Duffy would like to relocate ...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Anyone else to speak on this item?

Seeing no discussion, I declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

Seeing none that item is approved.

>> CLERK: 3.6. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 64 (ID # 26-0307) feet of conduit in Stone Avenue, from existing Manhole 14068 to a point of pickup at 11 Stone Avenue

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare this public hearing to be open. Is anyone here to speak on this item?

>> Jackie Duffy, Eversource like to install 64 feet of conduit-- to provide electric service for the city of Somerville, electrical vehicle charging stations at Stone Avenue and Union Square.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Anyone else to speak on this item?

Seeing none I declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

That item is approved.

>> CLERK: .7. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 6 (ID # 26-0310) feet of conduit in Chandler Street, from Utility Pole 227/6 to a point of pickup at 53 Chandler Street

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare this public hearing to be open. Is there anyone here to speak on this item?

Jackie?

>> I lost you. Sorry it went blank.

I would like to install 6 feet of conduit-- and as a point of interest I ran into good old John-- I wondered why I was so happy!

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Is there anyone else here to speak on this item?

I declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

Seeing no discussion, that item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 3.8. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install 6 (ID # 26-0311) feet of conduit in Line Street, from Utility Pole 211/7 to a point of pickup at 62 Line Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I declare the public hearing to be open. Is there anyone here to speak on this item?

>> Jackie Duffy, Eversource. I would like to install 6 feet of conduit to provide electric service of new construction add Line St.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Anyone else here to speak on this item?

I declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President, hello Jackie Duffy.

>> You sound very good!

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: It is very close to 56 Line St, pole 211-6, on our list of poles to be removed by Eversource for over three years.

I would request that this be conditioned to wait on the completion of that work that is long overdue. And if we need to do some after work to make sure we get the conditions right I am happy to send this to committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay. So that item-- any other discussion?

Seeing none we will refer the two to Licenses and Permits Committee.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Can we hear from Jackie Duffy on how she will be following up on this?

>> I can go back to the division and see who is on the pole. I do not know in thing about this one, but I know there is a double pole we are working on -- Two of them as matter of fact that we are waiting for other utilities to come off. I do not know who is left on the pole. I can send someone out tomorrow we can get this approved tonight with the stipulation that we can get this done.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I appreciate the work happening on -- St., the status is three years. Why don't we hold on this for two weeks, and get a status update on this?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Are we going to send it to licenses committee?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Yes.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

That is referred to Licenses and Permits Committee.

>> CLERK: .9. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
5
(ID # 26-0308) feet of conduit in Heath Street, from Utility Pole 165/13
to a point of pickup at 16 Edgar Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Another clear the public hearing to be open is there anyone
here to speak on this item?

>> Jackie Duffy, Eversource... install (indiscernible) to extend to 16 St...

>> Wait... (indiscernible).

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Anyone else here to speak on this item?

Hi, declare the public hearing to be closed.

Any discussion?

Councilor Hardt?

>> I have a question around the construction in Healy school, lots going on right now. I
was wondering if we could send this to the committee as well to figure out timing.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any other discussion?

Seeing none that Adam will be referred to licenses and permits.

>> Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We have one more occasion, without objection will take item
5.1 out of order.

Would you read 5.1?

>> CLERK: 5.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
a (ID # 26-0185) total of 75 feet of conduit in Prospect Street, from Utility Pole 291/12 to
a point of pickup at 91 Prospect Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: To help understand folks we had this in a long list -- and we did
not send this to the committee, my bad.

>> We would like to deliver service to 91 Prospect Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Anyone else here to speak on this item?

Any discussion?

Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. Pres. this is one of those two that was for a project that does not exist. I would ask that we send this back to committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Back to committee it goes.

We have a few other items we want to take out of order this evening, unless there is any objection on the list.

We will take items 7.6 and then 4.9 and 4.11 together. And then 4.19 and then we have an executive session, 7.1.

Seeing no objection can we go to 7.16?

>> CLERK: Mayor's Communication Proclaiming 2026 to be the Year of the Neighbor.

>> Thanks through the President, I'm not trying to take anybody else's meetings. I want to get your buy-in on this as well. It is that I keep hearing that mayors' events that good mayors borrow, great mayors steal, ideas not money.

This is an idea that a colleague of mine at the Bloomberg Kennedy Center came up with in Omaha to broadcast. I loved it.

It will speak to something I think we need to be coming together on as a community right now with the threats we are facing here at Somerville.

It recognizes-- anything I picked up on the first time that I visited Somerville in 2001, I was living in Brighton, I remember coming up out of the subway in Davis Square thinking what is this amazing place?

Subsequent trips to Somerville drove home the idea; this is a neighborhood feel with neighbors who care about each other look up for each other and a sense of community and we need that right now.

I attended a meeting in Davis Square this week that featured speakers being heckled by their neighbors and community members who disagreed with them. And it did not resemble a neighborhood meeting. I thought it looked more like a WWF event and that saddened me.

Because we should never lose sight of the fact that ultimately we are neighbors, we hopefully our friends. We are community members together. And we might disagree on things. We are going to disagree on things.

But we have to be able to listen to our friend, our neighbor-- say something that we disagree with without feeling the need to start yelling at them when they have the microphone.

And so we planned on doing this before the meeting to come up with tangible words not actions. I paid attention for four years on this body. Things like neighborhood cleanups, we are bringing those back. We know those were missed.

We love a neighbor to clean up in the city, chance to come together as a community and shall pride in our city and Councilor McLaughlin going rogue in the committee and doing that, and those are coming back and we're looking for ways to connect, looking at a dust sha shovel contact the winter to recognize and coming together. And I ask to do this as a Council and would like to speak with one voice as a government and say this is a year where we are going to remember the things that bind us together. We are going to come together. We are going to stand alongside the people who truly need that protection right now.

And when we disagree, we are not going to lose sight of that fact. So asking for your buy-in on this and thanks for talking about this.

Any questions?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President, through you, Mayor Wilson. And I think this is great and much needed. And we have been in a few rooms where community members are trying to demonize others for the princes on opinion. Let's try to transcend that.

With that, I ask you to look into my budget requests and hoping-- on-topic-- that also includes some chairs over there on a non-city Concourse so we can connect, talk, and have a cup coffee all of us as a community and agree/ disagree and find simple ways and neighbor was in the program. I put in the budget, I think I did this year, and I took it out. And I put it back in. We can do street design for cheap, like \$2000. And maybe find ways to connect with our neighbors.

We have defined low cost ways and simple ways to connect with each other and find out that we have more in common that we don't. Quite frankly we have two remain strong as a community and find reasons to help each other out because those that want to tear us down as a community are relying on that, and we cannot have that.

>> Mr. President-- I don't want to stray too far off the topic. We are looking at making City Hall a nexus of the community and for the neighbors to come together. I am a big fan of Neighbor Ways.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott?

You're good.

Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Mr. President, Honorable Mayor, I support this idea I will chat with you later on about the mechanics, how to implement something like this. I am happy to have a conversation with you behind the scenes. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Sait?

>> COUNCILOR SAIT: Thank you Mr. President through you to Mayor Wilson, thank you for bringing this forward I am very thrilled to see something like this, giving neighbors the opportunity, more opportunities to get together. We already have so many amazing events in the community for people to come together. These are opportunities for people who live on the same block to get together, in the same ward, in the same neighborhood.

I think more than ever it is important for neighbors to get to know each other, for parents to connect, for the intergenerational type of activities. I am really excited to see what we can come up with together as a community.

And I would just end this by saying that, of all places, he chose this place to live in. And it is for all of these reasons because we are an amazing community. This would give us the opportunity to work together, celebrate things and getting to know each other.

As you started speaking, ... Moments of crisis when we disagree on things. Thank you Mayor Wilson.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you Mr. President through you to the mayor, as any cool idea, does this have a theme song?

Seriously, I like the spirit. Oftentimes growing up in the city, people try to keep to themselves. You have a child and you may be on the park circuit, or you get a dog and you end up talking to your neighbors more; maybe this will be the impetus for connection with your neighbors, putting in more effort and not getting freaked out when somebody says "hi" to you on the street.

Good idea Mayor. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo, something else?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you one more thought, Mr. President through you to Mayor Wilson.

I am excited to bring back the neighborhood cleanup because it is important. We had Comcast sponsoring that. She is no longer here. He left -- the Comcast represented the, a major bummer. But if we could save some cash and have a corporate sponsor that does help us with this or find ways to help us have this \$6 million pitfall, less money we will have this year in the budget. That would be cool. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Mayor Wilson?

>> Happy to report me to President your actively pursuing corporate sponsorship of those cleanups.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: thank you seeing no further discussion, that items placed on file.

Thank you.

Next out of order item items 4.9-4.11 together.

Madam Clerk if you could read those items.

>> CLERK: Order

(ID # 26-0336) By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to ensure that temporary dumpster permits do not conflict with handicapped parking spaces, or that temporary handicapped parking spaces are relocated for the dumpster permit.

4.10. Resolution

(ID # 26-0337) By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure that handicapped parking spaces are not used for snow storage and are cleared at the same time as other spaces.

4.11. Resolution

(ID # 26-0338) By Councilor Ewen-Campen

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council how to ensure that accessible sidewalk ramps are cleared following snowstorms and ensure that 311 reports on this issue are promptly responded to.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Counselor Link and Strezo would like to sign on.

>> This is reality related to access for people with disabilities two are issues that became urgent with snowstorms.

I will start with the first one which is not snow related, has to do with the placement of doctors and there's a construction site right now on -- Straight and a construction dumpster in a handicapped spot. And it does not appear there is an alternate handicap spot that was moved for the dumpster or anything like that. So this is really a technical question of when Dunster permits are being reviewed by inspection services. Are they reviewed when they are going into a handicap spot?

If not how do we make this happen?

Obviously this is a solvable problem, but it needs to be solved and the other two issues to have to do with snowplowing and I heard from the chair of our commission for persons with disabilities which here tonight that there were a lot of locations around the city, I don't think it is an issue with accessibility there was an issue where snow was actively piled and means the rest of the spots get plowed and one handicap not only does it not get plowed but it is a mountain of snow for weeks, completely unacceptable.

I know many of us have heard about this and heard complaints and many of us have been working on this for years including my colleague Councilor Clingan this have to do with clearing ADA ramps on corners.

The way it is supposed to work is that people who live there is both clear and when possible. If not we want people to call 311 and get them cleared and I want to sponsor Holly Simeone (sounds like) who has done a bang up job in reporting this issues and beating them in the commission I thought it would be helpful to hear from this directly to the Council as well.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you also had Councilor Scott and Councilor Hardt and Councilor Mbah-- the whole Council would like to sign up.

>> Thank you President Davis. Thank you very much Councilor Ewen-Campen.

My name is Holly Simeone, I live in Ward 4, and I am the chair of the commission on disabilities, and a former parent of a child who lived in a disability for 18 years and met many obstacles.

I really appreciate you bringing these forward.

We have not had a snowstorm like this in a long time, but we live in New England, and it happens. It is an opportunity to look at the process... You cannot put the snow in the city, you cannot plow an entire city parking lot, make it nice and clean. And put it into the HD spots because they are in the corners.

And I also understand the perspective of the person writing in the plow, they have to move into the corner. They cannot leave it in the middle of the street but there needs to be a discussion that involves how we are training people to understand where those spots are?

And also who is responsible for them?

I can tell you the law says the city is responsible because it is an accessibility feature. It does not matter if it is in the public parking lot, city on public, or on the street and have a clean the sidewalks and the spot next to it, because you cannot get your wheelchair out. You cannot get on into a snow pile.

This is not to criticize anything or anyone I can't imagine what it was like for the hours and days that DPW and other workers worked in whiteout conditions, in darkness, clearing roads and street. But it is an opportunity to take a look back and see what we did, and how do we fix it before we have more snow.

So I am asking for the commission to have a seat at the table. And be able to talk these things through.

>> Same goes for curb cuts and sidewalks.

I would like to add one thing. Typically when you have curb cut intersect the street, we have a model where you push them down, and residents who do not understand where the actual curve opening is for someone to cross... Here is a great example. Here are two sites. -- Is a curb cut, instead of having the crosswalk here we are moving it here. People are shoveling here. And we are pushing the snow here and blocking the access aisle.

I have had friends in wheelchairs, people installed who cannot get their kids to school; cannot get around the city and it is not just here but we have the opportunity to resolve this.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Councilor Ewen-Campen anything further?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: I asked that this be referred to committee for discussion.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Hold that thought.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: I want to thank my colleague from Ward 3 four bringing this forward in this is something I've been working in regards with the district cutouts and who is responsible for those. We are failing our people here in the city. We talk about wheelchairs, but I have seen, can you imagine being blind and having a white cane and having to traverse the city through those curb cuts that they rely on?

Having to walk on the street is extremely dangerous. I think we can do better and talk to the city administration it is too much to put on the residence because I do recognize that piles of snow are pushed by the plows. We need to figure out something and keep our pedestrians safe, and our most vulnerable pedestrians are able with disabilities.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President I am glad that Councilor Ewen-Campen mentioned to send it to committee. I want to know as it is heading in, I have a questions for the administration as they prepare to address this item in committee. First off, the city hired contractors to help with snow removal this year.

So where in the process the contractors lie in that?

What repercussions do we have to address with them and their service to the city?

Of course priority is to have the work done in-house.

And then also, I missed out hearing about the dumpster on Bow (sounds like) St., How is that possible?

How did that get approved?

Why is it still there?

How do we get it removed?

Are they finding techniques we can implement in addition to-- when we talk about snow removal-- what levers do we have?

Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President, very grateful to my colleague from Ward 3 for bringing this up especially the item on curb cuts. Some of you may have gotten emails from neighbors and I am sure I told this story once in public even when a neighborhoods together to get those curb cuts cleared in the city does a good job, in making sure the snow does not follow up on the sidewalks, sometimes bad actors like on 121 Prospect Street went to dig out all the parking spaces and user Bobcat to dump it into the clear curb cuts on Oak Street, which led to a lot of folks having consternation and strong feelings about why the city would do this, and why they city does not care about this.

To the credit of inspection services and DPW, we went through a lot of lakes to figure out what went wrong there, and we have a video of the contractor doing this. But I look forward to the conversation and committee. And I look forward to being able to appoint my constituents and neighbors to that conversation, so we can highlight both the good work the city is doing, and the better work we can be doing in the future.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

So I have given the city staff that it is appropriate to address this, sending this to sustainability and infrastructure.

Those are approved with a copy to sustainability and infrastructure.

Next out of order item is 4.19.

>> CLERK:

Resolution

(ID # 26-0356) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Clingan In support of Senate Bill S.2975, an Act protecting access to justice.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Thank you Mr. President I want to uplift this piece of legislation, do not need to tell us that the legislation was supported because they already are. And I want to give a local's perspective as someone who grew up in the city and knows a lot of people who are on the other end of immigration issues in this country.

I want to read something I read recently, I'm going to avoid the name, but it is a public comment about her partner who was detained by ICE while at a courthouse. She said her husband-- they have been living in the united states for about 10 years recently her partner was scheduled for a court appointment related to a traffic citation that required him to appear. When he arrived at the courthouse he was detained because he could even appear before the judge. This has been very difficult time for the family. And the young daughter who is a US citizen and needs special care, now they are facing legal expenses while also losing income.

And this-- I want to bring this up because I believe that people should be able to go to court and face justice. I believe people who are the victims of crimes should be able to testify in court and get justice.

And what is happening in this country, we are undermining the right of due process. And so some people may look and say this person was not supposed to be in this country. Therefore they should get deported. Let the court decide that. This person showed up to face justice. He did something wrong and he showed up to face justice and is now being punished unjustly for it.

It is an example of something that happens all over this country. Two people in the audience can speak even more to this State Senator Lydia Edwards and state representative Harber who are both sponsoring this bill. And I want to point this out and say this is really common sense to me. I hope it is common sense of the Commonwealth.

I would like to sponsor both.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin would like to sponsor State Senator Edwards and state representative Harber.

Step forward and we will take it from there.

>> Good evening I am Lydia Edwards, State Senator, I represent -- Suffolk -- this is the third time I have had the honor to testify in the body. Several of you as individuals to come before the body of the Boston city Council. And I thank you for being active and seeing the collective fight for justice, as beyond city borders.

When you came to testify there it was about either student rights, about rights with regards to cannabis; and what I feel and what I am trying to convey is thank you. And I look forward to working with you. Thank you for the support, and for bringing forth this resolution.

In 2025, were about 465 people arrested at courthouses by ICE. That is more than one a day, in about 46 different courthouses. How courthouses respond to them are different depending on the resources they have. Small courthouses are combined with larger ones in one building; you have Family Court, Small Claims Court, only one building with criminal court.

What is happening is there are different ways in which people are approaching the court or not bothering to go at all. I believe like Councilor McLaughlin, people have the right to go to court, and it is essential for our democracy due process to defend yourself and bring forth complaints against individuals.

What you will find with this bill in this moment is that the convergence of the prosecutors as well as the defense counsel in the course are all agreeing with that very basic foundation. That due process has nothing to do with immigration status.

And still we have ICE-- by the way this is not a new thing-- ICE has come into courthouses, in many cases they did so after people were driving without a driver's license and thank goodness to some of the leadership year, we were able to get driver's licenses for all.

But they are not uncommon. This particular administration has been particularly cruel about how they are approaching people going to court.

They are using a civil arrest; want to make that very clear that people are concerned about this. Why can't we arrest people in court if they get found guilty in court?

They are arresting them on a civil matter. There interrupting criminal trials taking the witness off the stand and taking the defendant in the middle of the trial who could be found guilty by the way and will not be serving anytime. Because he is now with ICE.

There in the middle-- they are preventing victims of domestic violence, children, people from coming forward. It is disgusting. It does not make us safer. And it again is violating basically fundamental rights. What this is proposing to do is essentially to say we read the Constitution in this common law and under the tent of Emmett we have the right to say what will or will not comply with ICE or work with them.

Our state court-- our courts-- are our business. And how people have access to them will be determined by our Constitution and our understanding of due process and human dignity.

The protect our courts act does several things. One, while currently you only need an demonstrated warrant-- somebody where DHS can file a little piece of paper to go get Councilor McLaughlin is an example, they walk in the court in the court complies with that this raises the standard. Does not prevent them going to court but it does require they have a judicial warrant. A judge must sign this.

You must be pursuing some so important that a judge has said, "you've got to go get them now."

And not only it protects the modern courthouse; it prevents arrests on the courthouse grounds and goes for the than any version of the Courts protections that we have pending right now, says it also protects people going to court, on their way to court, as well as on the way home from court. That is how expansive this is.

And by the way it is completely constitutional thank goodness in New York they have a great Attorney General like we do here; they have the protect our courts act that was challenged by the Trump Administration by the same provisions I described and was found to be constitutional by the Second Circuit. So we have good caselaw.

Mine goes a little bit further it helps family members, not just the person required to come to court. Is their spouse, your advocate, a witness in the hallway, somebody with them. You want any of them?

You better have a judicial warrant.

Moreover it also assures that if you are coming into the court as a law-enforcement agent, you better say who you are, why you are there, present the warrant for who you are trying to pursue, and also -- according to my bill and hopefully what you will support-

- you will not be wearing a mask. This prevents anybody from wearing a mask in the courthouse unless it is for health reasons, Covid.

Finally this has the important component of the Attorney General for individual issues as well as to defend the Commonwealth.

For me it is deeply personal because the courthouse and I represent and go to any Boston that was on the news when a man was drug out, his shirt was removed, his shoes were removed and he was screaming in the hallway when they drop them in the ICE vehicle, violation of the head start class so the children could hear him screaming.

It is a horrific time that we are in; sometimes it is a surreal moment. Moments like this when we reach out to our miscible partners and say, please stand up with us. Please talk about how this is impactful to you. Because your voices do matter to your local law enforcement who we will need to be supporting these bills. This matters.

And I greatly am appreciative-- this is the first municipality first city that would be standing for this particular bill, grateful for the opportunity to answer any questions and to present to speak to you today. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

Questions for Senator?

Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President you to Senator Edwards, thank you for this. Thank you for your caring compassion and action. Provide this gets passed and moved how long until it is implementable?

>> Immediately. It would be immediate.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you. One more question if I may, Mr. President.

Is this to keep our municipality and our municipal spaces safe as well?

>> No it is just for the courts. The governor has an executive order for all accessible properties... They all require judicial warrants from them to go on that property.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: One quick question on the same lines as Councilor Strezo, when will this be deliberated on?

When do we expect to hear if it moves forward?

>> We are looking forward to the judicial committee and having a hearing at the end of this month or beginning of April. We look forward to be invited to submit testimony. I want to give a shout out to the black and Latino caucus of which I am a member who had an incredible hearing-- some of you were there and testified in support-- specifically on the protect act which is a component of the judiciary protections as well.

Just know that the fact the governor, the House and the Senate are all moving, not in separate directions it is a rare moment where we all agree. Something needs to be done it is a matter of how urgent and how big we will get it done but it is an exciting moment.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

representative Barber.

>> Thank you President Davis in the Council for taking up the resolution I'm Christine Barber, state rep for the Middlesex District thank you for indulging me and speaking tonight and I'm cosponsoring Senate 2975 which the Senator Edwards just talked about, and I want to thank you for bringing this bill. And I want to speak about the trauma we are seeing in our communities.

It is a cornerstone of our democracy last year by our count there were 600 ICE arrests in Massachusetts courthouses, threefold increase. I was at a local domestic violence organization yesterday, where we were talking about survivors of thematic violence who are not seeking protective orders because they are scared to go to court. This is real and it is happening in our community.

Witnesses are scared to testify. We are seeing this over and over here at home.

So this bill as you have heard is very focused and is enforceable. No civil arrests can happen at a courthouse without a judicial format; law-enforcement is identified themselves and stated purpose, huge step in the organizing around this bill is working. As the senator mentioned the protect that which was put together under the leadership of the black and Latino caucus is moving forward in the House. And the Protect Act keeps part of this bill, keeping courthouses safe and incorporate the do not deportation bill and his body already passed the resolution already in support. And that bill stops local and state police from being deputized as ICE agents.

We all know the progressive rhetoric is not enough to protect folks who are under attack in our communities. Progressive legislation is what we need. In passing this resolution tonight-- this is the exact right moment to keep up his momentum. This is what we need to make sure that we pass this in the legislature, and the governor signs this.

There is precedent for doing this and will file the work and family mobility act make sure immigrants could get driver's licenses regards other immigration status it took a lot of coalition yielding across the whole state. And many local city councils, school communities and others stood with us. And that is how we build momentum to get there and pass the bill.

So I urge the Council to pass this resolution, and I hope we can continue to work together to make sure everyone is safe in their access to justice. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Any additional questions or discussion?

Any councilmembers that would like to sign on?

Everybody wants to sign on.

Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Just on the item, as a cosponsor of this resolution I want to thank our delegation that has come up this evening and thank Councilor McLaughlin for being the lead sponsor on this.

This fault right with our values as far as the welcoming city ordinance. Some district courts have a huge population. My ward stops across the street no walk to the train station every morning and I have seen ICE posted on the parking lot of the courthouse many times. We need to act now as estate to address this; and I am proud as it was mentioned to be the first city who is supporting this locally here, for this particular Senate bill.

And thank the good Senator for being the lead sponsor of this. And I am really proud to do things like this; because this is the type of legislation that is really, really important to give everybody safe.

And as was mentioned, witnesses or victims even-- victims of crimes who cannot even get their due justice in court. Against their attackers. So yeah, happy to be a cosponsor of this and thank everybody for their time.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Mr. President. Thank you Senator and representative Barber for your leadership. It is fundamental, access to the court is fundamental part of the functioning of a democracy. And we have observed time and again, the federal government has abused this.

What they have been doing is still unconstitutional, unlawful; I am curious to know because some of us are also running ... now.

If ICE violates this, what happens?

They have been violating other stuff. Have not heard ICE being prosecuted for violating this. How do we know that this is something that is implementable?

Not just another bill that would be out there.

Can somebody tell me, is this something tangible that they can be prosecuted?

I have not heard of one ICE agent who held accountable for all the stuff they have been doing. What makes us think that this is something that will do something different?

>> The author of the bill-- this is enforceable by the Attorney General. She is an important piece, and she has oversight over this.

>> Thank you for the question and it is very important one. You have demonstrated what you have asked about; a lot of people have asked about specific individual rights against individual ICE agents. The Attorney General would likely represent Commonwealth and pursue an injunction to stop going into a certain courthouse.

I will give credit to Senator Will Brownburger, who introduced a bill amending a 1983 civil rights statute, allowing for individuals to sue anybody acting under the color of law-- federally, locally, municipal-- and sue them individually for damages.

And so that is going to get-- we will need to have an sure a huge conversation. As many people see this as controversial, brushing up against police reform activities that we have had immunity from. However that is a pending bill that is going to be heard in the Judiciary Committee. I can say that because I am the chair of the committee. We will hear it.

And also the enforcement against ICE you will note DA Hayden did -- the DA has tried to hold ICE agents in contempt of court and unfortunately due to federal laws and federalism, they excused themselves completely ignored it.

So we are working on it, the best we can, at most we can provide the fences and get people out of custody from ICE. And we will see what we can do on the individual level.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Senator Edwards for your leadership on this. Again this is just something that we witness the crack open, to come into their homes, this is not constitutional we have never seen an ICE agent being arrested and prosecuted. And that is why we feel helpless. We can make all this noise and stand here and pontificate and write bills and ICE will still come and pick somebody right in front of us. All we can do is take a camera, take a video, and find legal support for them. It is unbelievable. But thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: See no further discussion that item is approved. Next item order Madam Clerk.

>> CLERK: 7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting that this Council convene in Executive (ID # 26-0334) Session to receive an update on collective bargaining negotiations.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:

I see we have a representative from the law department. Can you speak to us about whether this is an appropriate item to have a closed session?

>> The purpose of the close section is an approved purpose of the closed session.

>> CLERK: . Roll call to enter into executive session

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

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>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

>>

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

Yes

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We will return once executive session is completed.

>> [Executive session]

>> [Executive Session in progress]

>>

>> [Executive Session in progress]

>> [Executive Session in progress]

>>

>>

>> [Executive Session in progress]

>> [Return from executive session]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I call this meeting back to order. Nobles were taking in executive session, other than the votes to adjourn.

So we have two more items that we want to take out of order. Sorry. Roll call to return. Even though I can see you are all here.

>> [Roll call]

>> CLERK: Roll call to reestablish quorum.

>> [Roll call]

>> CLERK: All Councilors present.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We are now taking item 4.26.

>> CLERK:

4.26. Resolution By Councilor Clingan

(ID # 26-0365) Recognizing March 2026 as National Social Work Month.

Whereas individuals have entered the social work profession for generations out of a commitment to improving the welfare and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

And whereas the 2026 social work Month claim social workers uplift and transform this ignited by the national associations of social workers see is central role social workers play in strengthening communities and advocating for social justice, protecting populations and systems to create a more equitable society.

And where they serve in schools and hospitals, veterans and centers, governments and helping people exit critical services including mental health care, family support, and community resources.

And whereas social workers are the forefront of addressing many of the nation's most pressing challenges including mental health care needs, substance use disorder treatment and increasing economic and social division.

And whereas the profession as long helped advance important social progress, including strengthening worker protections, expanding healthcare access, and promoting equal rights and dignity for all people.

Now it is resolved that the Somerville city Council hereby recognizes the contributions of social workers and declares March 2026 the national social worker month and encourages all residents to join in celebrating and supporting this important profession.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Hear hear.

Councilor Clingan

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Before I sponsor a few social workers here this evening to accept our resolution and our praise I want to say I apologize for the oversight, I do not communicate properly. I know it is a late hour. Nonetheless this is important and I am glad everybody could stick around to be here for this.

So Mr. President, Alex, I probably speak today in support of this resolution recognizing March a national social worker month. This year's theme set by the national Association of social workers is "social workers uplift, defend, and transform."

And I can't think of three words a better capture the moment we are at right now.

Social workers uplifted people everyday, helping families, navigate schools and mental systems and housing challenges in the many complex it is a modern life and help some of the most vulnerable member of the community and worker transform systems of people are treated with fairness, compassion, and humanity.

That work is especially important right now as many immigrant families across the country are facing deep uncertainty around immigration enforcement in response or social workers in the community have stepped up in powerful ways. They have been working alongside immigrant advocates to ensure that families understand the importance of family safety plans, making sure parents have arrangements in place so their children are protected if something on active happens.

And their also helping parents prepare the unthinkable caregiver authorization affidavit so that a trusted adult can pick up children at school and care for them if needed and preventing the children from unnecessarily entering into the system.

This work is quiet, often unseen, but profoundly important. It reflects the very heart of the social work profession; meeting people where they are and helping them advocate fear and uncertainty.

And ensuring families remain supportive and connected.

In the moments of national tension and uncertainty, social workers are often steady hands helping communities altogether so today as we recognize social work month I want to thank the social workers here, some of which are at this horseshoe are on Councilor McLaughlin is a social worker by trade, working everyday helping to transform the world better.

And I'm here to sponsor -- To work on behalf of thousands of children and families for the Department of children and families for the state.

First I would like to sponsor Marianne Wallace (sounds like).

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan sponsors Maryann Wallace. Seeing no objection.

>> Thank you Councilor Clingan and thank you to the City of Somerville city Council, always supporting social workers and helping our families and being accessible.

We appreciate the support especially as Councilor Clingan said, during recent times people are so traumatized, children are traumatized, not only if the parents are going to be home when they come home from school. Parents concerned about their children in Somerville. We have seen the lack of access or inability to access substance abuse or mental health and even primary care healthcare, given the climate of our country. We appreciate the recognition and the support that you give that only social workers but our residents. Thank you.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Coquina (sounds like) if you would like to say a few words.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: No objection.

>> As Marianne has said it so eloquently, thank you so much.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you both for your work for being here your patience this evening.

Any discussion?

Councilor Hard ?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: I want to thank Councilor Clingan for bringing this forward and thank you both for coming. I think there is no way to overstate the importance of social

workers and the work that you do, and it is incredibly under compensation, and I know there is more than one person can do. I really appreciate your work. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The whole Council is going to sign on to this one.

Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: I want to thank my colleagues my mother worked in social work, she would be deeply upset if I did not mention that. She still uses her social work license in her 80s, and I have seen the life saving power that social workers can have. I appreciate your work. Thank you.

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: I like to emphasize the fact that these are DCF social workers and the things they see would keep you up at night. And have an affinity for DCF social worker; my mother was a foster parent of the term "social worker" capture such a wide breadth of work that is done... And since they are in the chamber I would like to recognize her as her work does fall in network of social work with regards to helping families with children with disabilities.

So I say we give them a round of applause and call it a night.

Thank you.

>> [Applause]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you Councilor Clingan.

One more item out of order.

If there is no objection we would take the finance committee report up next.

>> CLERK: Item 6.81.

>> Finance committee met on Tuesday, March 1 2026, with remote participation, our colleague was sick and still is. And the legislative liaison Jasmine-- we picked up a seven item agenda.

We recommended approval of a \$31,000 grant for the Department of environmental protection for upgrades to the-- housewares facility and the Republic slain this with fund winterization and a new garage door and the pedestrian cut out for better accident we discussed DPW's commitment to accessibility at the-- facility and the need for residents to be able to communicate with staff while outside its level and protected from the elements.

Also recommended appropriating approximately \$56,000 on the bike stabilization fund for an 18 dock blue bike station, these funds were donated by the developer for the city to purchase equipment using our existing regional contract.

Three Police Department grants generated extensive discussion. First recommended approximately \$23,000 grant for youth violence prevention the proximity \$6000 local match from the city.

The new captain of community relations is exploring programs like aquarium trips and basketball games alongside hotspot patrols and youth academies.

There was concern regarding the requirement and the grant text that the Police Department submit daily crime data to the greater Boston detention center through the system known as hotlink or crime tracer. And we receive written confirmation that this is not shared at the federal level although there are some questions around the risk about sharing this related this item was recommended for approval by the split 3-1 vote.

Will recommended approval for a \$33000 Police Department the police to inform staff explained that the key difference... But by a small number of approved officers and only with explicit consent from victims seeking to share evidence.

Exiting surveillance technology impacted report provided transparency, regarding these legal and residual safeguards. In this grant also covers blue voice, a new large English model AI tool. We discussed how this might be used, what data will be uploaded to it, and how to ensure it is not used to leak personally identifiable information about Somerville residents. Nor to substitute AI decision-making for human decision-making.

Additionally, we recommended a \$127,000 grant for special response team equipment and training include protective armor and cameras that are -- An investigation specific, and detailed report.

Addressing concerns regarding over militarization. Police Department staff emphasized that the partner policy ensures a tactical year remains behind the scenes.

Last item was the report presenting Octive a tax a incremental financial policy -- When the Council sees a clear portability amended this tool allows us to weigh a portion of future taxes on the added value the development will bring to a property.

To be clear, this is not a tax cut or a city payment; it is a time-limited reduction of the increased taxes that the development would normally generate.

While the state set minimum subsidy criteria to qualify, Somerville and the Somerville City Council in particular will review this on an item by item basis. This work was marked completed and I submit this to be accepted.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I request that we sever three police related items, 6.82, 6.83, and 8.87. And in give these visual numbers-- and I would like to place designs before the full council so I could provide a brief comment and get a roll call vote.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott moves to sever items 6.82, 6.83, and 6.87. From the committee report
Any discussion?

Seeing no objection those items are severed.

Any further discussion on the committee report?

Seeing none that item is approved.

Do we need a roll call?

Let's do a roll call vote.

And then who will take up the item separately

>> CLERK: Agenda item 6.A6
Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$56,339.46 from the (ID # 26-0270) Bike Share Stabilization Fund for installation and startup costs of a Blue Bike station at the Boynton Union Connect Transportation Management Association development site.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

On the item?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

61

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

61

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

61

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

61

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

Yes

>> CLERK: All Councilors in favor that item is approved.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We wanted to individual rollcall for each is that my understanding?

>> That will be final we could take all three up with a single roll call vote.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Let's discuss them together and take a roll call separately. Any objections?

Madam Clerk please read those severed items in the record..

>> CLERK: 6.A2

6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 (ID # 25-0849) grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training.

6.A.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$43,000 (ID # 26-0169) grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for software.

6.A.7. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$22,800.08 (ID # 26-0271) grant that requires a match, from the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition Community Safety Initiative to the Police Department for youth violence prevention.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Do you want to speak on any of the items?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President. I will go in reverse order. I apologize for the disruption here. Thank you to the chair for bringing this out of order.

As the hour is late and I am very ill, I will spare my standard over (indiscernible) on these matters before members of the public who may be curious about this, one of these items-- the \$22,800 grant known as the Shannon grant, the metro mayors' chemical coalition is always pitched as a grant to allow us to host a possible tournament. It has been happening for years and every year this Council excepts that grant, but one of the terms of the grant is that we continue to participate in the system known as Cop Link, which is not one that is particularly subject to the discretion. We are a full map community and have been sent before I got elected, which means that every single encounter-- every traffic citation, parking citation, every accident report, every complaint-- somebody calls in a noise complaint, the address, place of the people present with an officer goes to check it out, any information that the officer records goes into our system, and it is directly pipelined into the Cop Link system.

Review of the presentation that was published back in 2017 reveals how Cop Link uses that information and an associate people with events. If you're a minor child who happened to be present at the house or an apartment building where there was enough complaint, and later there was a report of suspected drug dealing, now all of a sudden that person is associated with each of those. And becomes a person of interest that shows up when searched for possible ... not to call it a dragnet-- but persons of interest to look into when investigating future incidents.

This is all very clear. It is a presentation that was made by Mass state police to explain how useful Cop Link was.

As such, as always, I don't believe I am going to convince anybody in this chamber tonight. But the neighbors understand why it is that I believe we can find other money to run a basketball tournament.

Next, I will briefly address the grant for \$43,000 for software. One piece of this is very easily understood, the Grey Key software which is used to crack cell phones. There's been a lot of discussion about this. And I have great concerns about it. But we do have surveillance technology and reports and policies in place that supposedly govern how and when our law enforcement officers can just crack anybody's cell phone.

But more concerning to me is the inclusion of Blue Voice, which is an AI tool to be used by our Police Department to generate Police Department and to assist our police officers in the field.

Given the ... I don't want to go into too much detail about the horrific consequences, suffice it to say that I have grave concerns about the injection of AI into our systems, especially with the fact that facial recognition is already part of the Cop Link system. And allowing that data to get even closer to a facial recognition system you see here is in my opinion just a recipe for disaster.

There is a story international media of a grandmother in Tennessee who was arrested and jailed for six months on suspicion of a financial fraud, a bank fraud and North Dakota.

She had never been to North Dakota; she was just flagged by an AI system. And lost her house as a result of being jailed for six months and this.

I don't want to inject anymore possibility for harm for people coming into contact with our Police Department.

And finally, the \$127,000 grant for special response team equipment and training, this is for the shields, the helmets, the batons, the chemical weapons. This is ... I'm old enough to have been on the other end of that from the police department. I am old enough to remember my colleagues around this horseshoe talking about pepper sprayed at protests by the Somerville Police Department.

I'm old enough to remember when we had the deputy chief of the police department on camera placing a Somerville resident in a headlock at a protest.

We see across the nation-- even when communities are steadfast in their commitment to supporting their neighbors-- Minneapolis, with Mayor, the governor and everybody up and down the chain saying we are steadfast in supporting our neighbors and opposing ICE, is a Minneapolis Police Department that in that right gear.

And in Burlington Vermont, yesterday it was the police department that kept the neighborhood at bay, while ICE laid siege to a house, which they eventually did break the door down, searching for a person who was not there.

They arrested three other people from the house and put them in detention. And it was the Burlington Police Department whether special response team gear, with their backs to ICE facing down the members of their community.

I can foresee a situation in the not too far distant future where it will be in our community; and I, Mr. President, cannot vote to accept that, to pay for the weapons that will be pointed at me.

With that, I appreciate your forbearance. Again I do not need this to necessarily be a full discussion from the Council, I do not expect to change anybody's mind. But I do appreciate the opportunity to say my piece, and to get my vote in the negative on the record.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link?

>> COUNCILOR LINK: I see the legislative-- I will yield to her.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: (indiscernible).

>> Thank you Mr. President, I want to correct the record related to item 26 0169 with regards to Blue Voice. As was certainly committee meeting Keith generously reached out to the vendor Blue Voice to get more details for our request for a response to our request from Councilor Link, it will be a closed system used to look at our own ordinances and state laws. I will not try to paraphrase the whole document that was shared. But I would encourage Councilors to take a look at that document it will not be used to generate police reports. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link?

>> COUNCILOR LINK: So to the president, thank you.

Yes I would encourage everyone to look at the answers which are now available through the legislative arm. I have huge concerns about the use of AI, especially the police use of AI. And if everything is as described-- essentially just a search engine which I am less concerned with-- but if it ever did become... There was public, personally identifiable information, anything like that put into it, I would have much more different stance.

And I want to also address what again the councilor from Ward 2, Cop Link, also known as Cop Tracer AI, I remain very skeptical on that, and I do think there are concerns in terms of ... just like when we put our data on the Internet. You can't get it back.

I do not know where that data goes. And while I have seen an email assuring us that it doesn't, that the feds don't have access to it, I am still not clear why that policy changed in 2023. And what guardrails there are to ensure it does not happen, that we reverse that policy in 2026.

So I am very worried about that one. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Other discussion?

Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Thank you to Mr. President I hate to put the mayor on the spot, but when you show up at every Council meeting I will have the asked question. I am curious about your position on all of this.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Mr. Mayor, you care to address the question?

>> MAYOR WILSON: Thank you. Through you to Councilor McLaughlin, we would not have put this forward if we did not feel there was merit to this request. We go through a rigorous examination by this Council, and we trust in the end result of that examination. We trust you all to do the work and determine whether this is something that you all are willing to combine.

>> Don't mean to do it like this. But I am here in this meeting, more curious about the stated concerns from our colleagues, and how the city feels about those positions.

I am genuinely curious.

>> MAYOR WILSON: Mr. President, I don't want to get into a back-and-forth with Councilors and arguing against claims they made. I appreciate folks raising their concerns they made and I'm not going to say I am not without concerns on a great many things. In the end you are left balancing concerns versus potential benefits. And that is where I trust people to make up their own minds on it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay. Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you chair. First I want to appreciate the concerns raised in acknowledge there is a limit as to how much I know and understand about all the complexities about the systems and one thing that mattered to me in making my decision on the question of the approximately \$23,000 grant was that-- to my knowledge-- municipalities including Somerville are already in essentially an unavoidable relationship of sharing certain kinds of data. Such as when people are booked for crimes in a broader way.

And that existing fact, together with the written confirmation we were able to get, I would like to learn more about how reliable this is.

But the confirmation that we were able to get that this particular data is not going to be shared with the federal government. Those things together made a difference to me on that point.

Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you Mr. President through you, as stated by some I feel like we could sort of doomsday just about everything and you can come up with different scenarios.

I think that ICE and other agencies probably have more than enough tools at their disposal.

I guess what I am trying to say is, as was mentioned as far as weighing the positive and negative, I have to go back to the mistakes in housing and when the kids-- they really look forward to these trips to the aquarium and different outings that they may never leave the housing development. And in other circumstances, go to these different places and I hear concerns are raised. Again I also share those concerns. But what will we lose if we vote down this basically "free money," that has an impact in the community. I don't want to be responsible for bad things happening.

I did listen to the meeting in real time the other night. And the chief continue to reiterate that-- in line with what the Mayor is saying-- we are going for these grants. We are a welcoming city, and we understand they can't guarantee anything. That is kind of how life is. There is no guarantee for a lot of things.

So really I think you just take away this benefit, in the name of fear, which may or may not materialize-- and I have not heard any specific scenarios, or how this people believe this could play out versus walking into the (indiscernible) and seeing the bus there taking the kids out of the city during the summer months to somewhere cool.

I will be supporting this grants as I have in the past. And that is it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President. A reiteration in the discussion that happened in the violence committed, and anyone can read the minutes again this is a grant that is every year has been accepted and yes it is for our most disenfranchised children and families in the community. I would like to remind our colleges that. They will be the ones impacted by this and I will not let our most vulnerable residents fall through the cracks based on hypotheticals and what we have seen weighing on the other side proving assistance that it does prove provide to the community and achieve reiterated. Anything shared is already public record, already out there.

Any concerns that the colleagues raised about data sharing... And with the apps for the technology that was accepted.

The Sergeant Detective that spoke on these items-- may I remind our colleagues-- that these help assist with child molestation cases, human trafficking cases, and were instrumental in rape cases that most specifically with Uber drivers. And rape cases are notoriously difficult to prove.

This data actually helps. Some of us have daughters in this room. Some of us have daughters heading to college soon.

And with human trafficking cases, this can be useful.

So again all this information, all of this discussion has already been had. I will be supporting this. I have done my research. And have been paying attention to what goes on in the city long enough to understand how this actually implements in our community and assists where it can. I am confident this is a vote for yes from me and can we please move on?

>> Mr. President, please let the record reflect that I have three daughters.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Mr. President, to be quick and get in this conversation. For the \$43,000 it is a small market money, we need to take kids to the aquarium I will not rely on the department of homeland security for the \$43000 to take the kids to the aquarium. No support in this.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Similar to Councilor Mbah we just spoke I would send the Finance Committee on Tuesday and find out more about Cop Link. I know longer feel comfortable supporting that item, but I would urge the administration to find a way to put that money, to continue the program in the budget.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Back to Councilor Link.

>> COUNCILOR LINK: One quick clarification before I finish up here. Just to make it clear, this isn't necessarily a hypothetical. Up until 2023, ICE actually have regular access, full access to the so it is not something that maybe they would want. It is something definitely they do want.

I would say the other thing here is that the emails, the assurances we received from emails that they don't have access-- it is not that they can't get the data. Not that there is no path for them to get that data that is in there. is that they don't have direct access and that is a very different thing than say that they cannot get access.

I want these kids to have this opportunity. I want this program to continue. And like a good councilor from Ward 7, I would like to see the administration to find other ways to fund it. But it is a bridge too far for me.

Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

Let's have a separate roll call vote on each item in the order they appear on the agenda.

Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Before we vote on one to say that we can certainly set the table of fear, and vote something potentially good down. But we are basically saying that -- that our Mayor, arch even some of our colleagues here are basically being derelict of duty in putting people in harm's way.

And if we are going to do this about all kinds of issues, whether it would be any type of safety issue, this is hot politically, whatever. In terms of those concerns. But, you know I think that we're in a ... well, I'm going to vote what I am going to vote. But I want the record to show that.

The chief of police made it clear. That while they can't guarantee things, most of this is public record. If it is an abundance of caution that people feel comfortable, the way the table has been set I would do it. I am sure the public watching his thinking we must be completely irresponsible.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President. I think it is devious and dubious to inflate a vote like this with colleagues, complaining that anyone is supporting this is totally out of line.

The mayor who spoke earlier, the whole concept of neighborhood and having healthy dialogue, this is an opportunity for that, having a healthy dialogue.

But to demonize a neighbor, watching this live in real time, hopefully we are all making in good faith making decisions that are best for constituents over \$81,000.

Let's hope we are making decisions collectively in good faith.

Thank you.

>> Mr. President one comment?

Just before we vote, I have been working for the last two months with Councilor Link, with the ACLU. We hope there will be an ordinance to look at data sharing with the federal government specifically among law enforcement. How we have something ready to submit soon; the administration is taking a look and give us the feedback. I'm going to support this because I have in the past. And my understanding is that voting this down does not get us out of Cop Link I don't think. Maybe I am incorrect about that, but I wanted to explain this is an issue accurate a lot about. Actively working on this is not how I am choosing to take a stand on that. But I don't begrudge folks that do.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I remind folks that I will limit folks to speaking twice in the item and if you have spoken twice, I will not recognize you again. Follow the rules we can move along.

>> MAYOR WILSON: I came here to make the point to monitor what Councilor Ewen-Campen made. You can be very concerned about Cop Link, how you vote in this will not have any iota to change Cop Link. All you do is turn that money. It will not Change Cop Link. Full stop.

>> I would like more clarification because during the finance committee meeting I asked if they were grants that required our participation in Cop Link and chief (indiscernible) said no. That led me to believe that other than this grant we could opt out of Cop Link. Correct me if I am wrong.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Mr. Mayor, anyone from the administration, can you clarify response to Councilor Hardt's question?

>> MAYOR WILSON: Thanks Mr. President. The relationship with Cop Link has existed long before. Simply opting out of it and declining this grant will not change anything about that relationship.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt does that address your question?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Can I ask a follow-up question?

So let's say that with the work that Councilor Link and Councilor Ewen-Campen are doing, if we decided that we should not participate in Cop Link, but we have this grant and we have to continue it for the period of time. Is that a realistic scenario?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Question two Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> Yes.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen, can you respond?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Mr. President I don't not know the answer. My interpretation is that the administration will make a decision whether to participate in Cop Link on the merits in their mind. It is not about whether this grant requires us to or not. My understanding is that this administration wants to be part of Cop Link. That is how I have heard that.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

Roll call votes, each one individually please.

Let's reread them.

ck

>> CLERK: In the item 6 A 2.

6.A.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$127,000 (ID # 25-0849) grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Special Response Team equipment and training.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:
Nay

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:
Yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:
Yes

>> CLERK:

10 Councilors in favor.

Item 6A-3.

Mayor's Request Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$43,000 (ID # 26-0169) grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for software.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

Nay

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

no

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

Yes

>> CLERK:

with 9 Councilors in favor that item is approved.

6A 3.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

no

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

Nay

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

Yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

Nay

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

Yes

>> CLERK:

With six Councilors in favor their enemies approved.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: With that let's start the meeting. I remind you that it is 10:30 PM, user discretion in providing reports when we get to those. Not that they are in any way important, just lots of different ways that folks can catch up on what happened.

Next item.

>> CLERK: Factory order of business for the agenda item 4.1

>> Chair are moved away the meetings of the Council's budget memos items 4.1, 4.8, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.18, 4.22, 4.27 and 10.1 placed them on file with a copy sent to finance.

We will have the chance to discuss these are the Tuesday March 24 meeting.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: On the motion?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: I brought a PowerPoint.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Those items are placed on file, copy to finance.

>> CLERK: --

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: This is a rule changing thank you to the legislative policy analyst for putting the correct words on the page to effectively have the supplemental agenda reflect what the law actually allows and not what the practice has been over the past number of years.

If an item is not submitted in accordance with the rules, I guess we actually gave until Tuesday morning to submit items for that week's agenda for the regular Thursday meeting. After that it needs to be unanticipated or have some time aspect to it for it to go into the supplemental agenda.

And -- both unanticipated and have some timely aspects to it. We will take a look send this to Legislative Matters Committee unless there is an objection, to make sure we are all clear and ask questions and have been on the record.

Any discussion?

Councilor Sait?

>> COUNCILOR SAIT: I have a question, we used to say Monday about midnight now Tuesday.

This is the change?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So there is a balance between what the law requires-- the law requires the presiding officer to put anything that can be anticipated up to 48 hours before the meeting on the agenda. The presiding officer is required to put that on the agenda.

From a practical standpoint we can't have something that is 6:59 and 30 seconds on Tuesday make it to the agenda. So we adopt rules and establish a deadline sometime prior to that, so our staff can create the agenda and publish it on time.

A lot of departments believe that adopting rules sometime before 48 hours is an appropriate interpretation of that. And we need to address that and the intent here is to get a little bit closer to that. Now it is 8:30 AM Tuesday morning and he gives us more time to get things in. After that we want -- Essentially what we have been doing for the

last several months since I took this role, to not deliberate on things that we did not tell the public about prior to Tuesday. The idea of the open meeting law, so folks know, and come here and weigh-in. And it is aligned with that, and it still does allow those exceptions pursuant to the open meeting law. And we've all been doing a really good job of that anyways. Hopefully, this will not be a big change.

As I said I do want to have the opportunity to discuss it in Legislative Matters Committee so make sure everybody is clear and there may be nuances and wrinkles we may have to adjust. And we will have that opportunity. Okay?

So that is referred to Legislative Matters Committee.

>> CLERK: 4.3.

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints Jessica Smith to the Public Financing of Campaigns Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The next three items are all appointments to the committees that were formed by the charter. Can you read the other two?

>> CLERK: 4.4

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints James Leo Bedard to the Ranked Choice Voting Committee

4.6

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints Derrick Rice to the Review of Multiple Member Bodies Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: It is all based on the recommendations you provided to me-- or some of you provided in some cases we can send this to committee if there is a desire for a discussion. I have seen some nodding, that is fine.

Is there any specific concerns whether we were to send these to committee, the commissions to start in two weeks?

Getting a thumbs up. We will refer each of these two confirmation of appointment for discussion. See no objections those are referred.

>> CLERK:

4.7

By Councilor Davis

In his capacity as President, conveying this Council's updated Standing Committee assignments and Commission appointments for 2026

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: These are just the City Council rules on those commissions, and I think I gave everybody what he asked for. There weren't a lot of requests; if I got it wrong let me know and we can always fix it. I look forward to see the output of all of these committees, pretty cool topics here. thank you for those who stepped up.

That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK:

4.14

By Councilor Link

In support of House Bill H.965 and Senate Bill S.2721, an Act restricting the use of rodenticides in the environment.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link?

>> COUNCILOR LINK: Thank you Mr. President this is a simple bill that constituent have brought to me. We have raptors, owls... In the interest of time that make sure we don't poison them. That is basically what this comes down to.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt, Councilor Sait, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Mbah... Councilor Clingan would like to sign in.

>> Sorry yes. One quick amendment was to insert in the ... in the fourth clause, (indiscernible) first-generation... and before SGARs (sounds like) in the Commonwealth.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The flavor of rodents...

Very well. That motion is on the table to add that other type of rodent to the item. On the amendment.

>> I don't want to set the precedent that we have to fix typos.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: This is the subject of the issue. Any further discussion?

Seeing none that is approved.

Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: A quick note for anyone concerned about this these bills do not seek to completely ban these insecticides, but rather to provide clarity about limiting them to short-term uses and indoor uses. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no further discussion that item is approved as amended. Next item.

>> CLERK: 4.16

By Councilor Hardt

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council the policy of prohibiting parking on alternating sides of the street during a snow emergency, and whether it is the best way to meet snow removal needs.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Thank you. I will say briefly I had four constituents that reach out to me with the same concern. I thought it merited discussion. And in particular, a constituent pointed out that with our changing climate we are having winters with no snow, and also a severity of snow when we get it. It is much greater. We are more likely to have these storms like we saw this winter with a high level of snow. Which really impacts our snow policies like how much snow we are getting. And I thought that merited discussion.

I would love for that to go to Sustainability and Infrastructure to be part of other items related to snow removal.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Tie that onto "snow talk."

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: I have been told that we are getting ready for a big talk at the next Sustainability and Infrastructure, hopefully that will put snow behind us officially.

But I want to say in this particular item, you know it's -- We have been there. I hear people say especially since we are not going all the way to the curb for various reasons, but when you have 2 feet of snow in a 10 foot wide area, that gets pushed pretty high.

If we went back to the no odd side/even side, it buries the cars basically. There is still a lot of work to do, no getting around that but certainly it wouldn't take away parking in the opposite side of the street for as long as this does too.

Looking forward to this discussion, just to see where the DPW heads are at they have historical knowledge. Happy to take this one.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any other discussion?

Approved with copy to Sustainability and Infrastructure.

Councilor Mbah move for reconsideration of an item?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Yes Mr. President, at the request of the chief administrators officer ... Or maybe at the request of the city clerk, I moved to reconsider these appointments that we sent to committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Which item?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: 4.3 to ... no 4.6...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Madame CLERK would you like to address the Council.

>> Thank you Mr. President, Kim Wall, city clerk. There is one item that requires some action in a shorter period of time than the others and after confirming literature that it is unlikely the committee would be able to be scheduled in that time I have requested this be addressed by the Council this evening.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Can you tell us which item that is?

>> CLERK: That is item ... we're on a different page, the one about multi-member body review committee. Given that the committee has a deadline of December, we aim to have it start meeting in April. We would like to have the apartments in place in order for that convening to happen.

This is item 4.6.

By Councilor Davis

That this City Council appoints Derrick Rice to the Review of Multiple Member Bodies Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah moves for reconsideration item 4.6 does anyone object?

That item is back before the body. Councilor Mbah, do you wish to move to approve this item this evening?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Yes Mr. President.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the item?

Seeing none The item is approved.

Thank you. Back to where we left off.

Madam Clerk next item.

>> CLERK:

4.17

By Councilor Hardt

That the Commissioner of Public Works discuss with this Council the frequency of street sweeping throughout the period of April through November

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Thank you this was another item that came through a constituent wondering if we could not have the frequency of street sweeping throughout the summer months when it is not a particular need to clean the streets.

In particular they were thinking about the impact on parking, and the difficulties which we all know are real in the city.

I would love this to go to Land Use Committee as well.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: This has been discussed in the past. I want to be clear for other people if they want to limit street sweeping-- because the streets are particularly dirty-- I want more street sweeping. Might be different in other neighborhoods, but in my own Street as pointed out in all the committee cleanups ...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Perhaps this is an opportunity to be more nuanced in timing and frequency.

Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you chair. I am curious about the choice of which committee. There is a Traffic and Parking Committee. I happen to be on it, either here or there. Seems to me this is right up that ally. Not opposed to Sustainability and Infrastructure but I do not know there is a history.

>> Commissioner Wiseman and DWP are frequent visitors-- and generally does not attempt traffic and parking.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Opportunity to get it in front of the right folks. That is the thinking. Good question thank you for asking.

Seeing no further discussion this is approved with a copy to Sustainability and Infrastructure.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 4.20.

By Councilor Wheeler
That this City Council calls on the Massachusetts

Legislature and Governor to increase Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by at least 6% in Fiscal Year 2027.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you chair, the City of Somerville delivers essential services everyday. Yet state aid to municipalities act hours has not kept pace with the needs and the aid UGGA for short has just returned to 2008 levels without adjusting for inflation and restoring the partnership requires growth in the funding. Year-to-year increase of at least 6% to UGGA would help rebuild that partnership and ensure activities like Somerville can maintain core services without placing additional pressure on poverty taxes.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you to the councilor at large, we have brought this for many years when it was brought really low and how we suffered from it and I do not know how all the money is spent on Beacon Hill in terms of like the millionaires' tax, I believe that could've been something that could increase the percentage back to cities and towns from that money there.

It would be great to recoup and get a higher percentage that we have been getting since I forget what year it was when they cut the local aid. So thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 4.21.

By Councilor Wheeler

That this City Council calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act, and maintain the \$150 per pupil minimum aid increase in Fiscal Year 2027

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you chair, the student opportunity act was a landmark commitment to ensure that Massachusetts schools have the resources that students need.

As we reach the final year of its implementation, it is critical that the state follow through fully, maintaining a \$150 per-pupil minimum aid increase year-over-year, so we can continue investing in success of all students. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link, Councilor Hardt, like a sign on, the whole Council.

That item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK:
4.23

By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Ewen-Campen That the Administration create a publicly accessible dashboard tracking progress toward planning and development goals in Gilman Square.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: --

>> Thank you Mr. President through you, we have a new administration and the people on Gilman Square as hungry as ever for progress and the mayor has been focusing on this old I will say it is a priority.

But in the spirit of the name-- and there is somewhat of a timeline laid out for activity down there.

And so I was thinking that ... a dashboard on -- We have various city websites. With specific projects if you are on those websites. I thought maybe -- word of some type would provide visible, accountable, visible timelines with accountability. Sometimes we can say dates, for that is how the game of telephone works. Those get shifted, and no one knows. It is good to have that place where that timeline is laid out in a very visible, tangible way. And I want the Councilors whom I shared Gilman Square-- who also put budget priorities around that. We both know this is still a major priority area for the residents down there, and for all of us. It is a great opportunity.

I hope we can come up with some simple dashboard on Gilman Square where neighborhood plan -- Since we do have a neighborhoods care plan-- and I think you we have a dashboard with milestones and date singles would be very helpful to people.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: I was arguing it should be a giant neon sign. Mr. President I guess I can go on file to the office of economic development.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Mr. President I don't know if the good Councilor knows how much Gilman square where close to my house. I was involved in an efficient and union square neighborhood and I would like to sign on to anything that gives Gilman square a lift.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Single for the discussion, The item is approved, copy to HCDE.

>> Just one letter. HCD.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: HCD.

>> It is March now Mr. President.

>> CLERK:

4.24

By Councilor Clingan

That Director of Mobility evaluate opportunities for improved pedestrian safety at the intersection of Broadway and Main Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: I cannot emphasize enough the amount of parents who walk the kids to the hilly school in the morning time. And the level of danger that they describe to me and how fearful they are. I have met with them; they are putting a light further down near Fenwick hopefully. But that intersection at Main Street and Broadway continues to be an extremely treacherous crossing. I'm hoping that Brian and the team can take a look at it, and evaluate it, to see what we can do to make it safer.

My challenge is the light cycles; they tweaked those before, but I think maybe we can do more there. They are creative enough to come up with something. Said that the traffic.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link?

>> COUNCILOR LINK: I want to say thank you-- schools are hugely important. MainStreet is my old Street. I am intimately familiar with how terrible that intersection is. I think this is awesome.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That The item is approved, copy to Traffic and Parking Committee.

>> CLERK: 4.25

Resolution By Councilor Clingan

(ID # 26-0364) That the Director of Housing provide data on units produced through the city's inclusionary housing program, including length of occupancy, unit refusal by lottery winners and other data to demonstrate the health of the program.

4.26. Resolution By Councilor Clingan

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Clingan?

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN: Thank you Mr. President I think is a heavy lift in terms of staff and time. It is important we look at this. I have personally heard anecdotes of people who do the math and they win the lottery and they get really excited. In addition to the rent-- the percentage of AMI when the pencil in the apartments, individually metered for water and sewer. Different charges that the complexes are able to put on. It does not pan out. It comes out-- they oftentimes refuse the unit. I have heard multiple people staying where they were just because of all of those charges.

And on top of that, maybe some people go in and not really looking fully at all the charges. And maybe they leave after a year. They realize they cannot afford it. And now maybe we created more disruption.

So I really want to look at the health of this in our inclusionary housing, 20% policy run how are people doing, the health of the program essentially. And it may take a while, but it is something we should really take a look at.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:
That item is approved with copy to HCD.

>> CLERK:
6B.1
Committee Report of the Committee on Housing, Community (ID # 26-0331)
Development and Equity, meeting on March 4, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: I misplaced my minutes. Come back please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Take up the next item.

>> CLERK: 6C.1
Committee Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits, (ID # 26-0333) meeting
on March 11, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: We had a 30 minute meeting addressing three items, the location at-- St, and we had a creative solution, on Eversource doing a review of the safety of the lines and poles on the street and submitting a written report. That was it.

Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the report?

Seeing none, the report is accepted as Submitted.

That's pickup 6B on the table.

Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President, yes. We met Wednesday, March 4, 2026 6 PM hybrid, in person and virtual. This was strictly a one agenda item. It was a public hearing request via petition to discuss the actual item, public communication that the Council hold a public hearing and submit to registered voters regarding out of the blue committee space and arts in the Armory. Councilor Sait had to recuse herself. And we had 11 members of the public to speak on this item.

And some were residents; some were artists. And they really painted a beautiful picture, unintended, of just the importance of the gallery. And what it meant to them and the community.

No votes or decisions were taking on that. I submit this committee report for your approval as is.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the report?

Seeing none, the report is accepted as submitted.

Supports item 26-025 before us the petition for the hearing which did happen. I will place that on file, unless there is any objection.

That item is placed on file.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 7.2

>> Chair I moved away the readings of items 7.2-7.9 and referred him to the Finance Committee for recommendation.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no objection those items are referred to finance.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 7.10

Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Courtney Reece to the position of Police Sergeant.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Referred to confirmations.

>> CLERK:
7.11

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is referred to confirmation and apartment.

>> CLERK: 7.12

Conveying the appointment of Chris Dwan to the Review of Multiple Member Bodies Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The same committee that needs to get working the administration would like for us to take action this evening.

Any discussion?

There seems to be some confusion.

Liaison---

>> It is just the mayor's communication there is no action to be taken on it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: You all set with that Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: I don't understand what I just got-- I am communicating with someone that is also wondering why it wasn't approved.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: If I can try and clarify-- not sure what communication you have-- but this is the mayor communicating his appointment to that same committee. We just say, "thanks for letting us know."

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Oh, okay.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thanks for letting us know Mr. Mayor.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you Mr. Mayor.

>> CLERK: 7.13

Conveying the 2025 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I would like to refer that to Legislative Matters Committee.

>> CLERK: 7.6

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. Do you want to send this to committee?

>> Mr. President the mobility team would like to discuss this in Traffic and Parking Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Or Sustainability and Infrastructure.

>> Traffic.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Traffic and parking it is. That item is referred to Traffic and Parking Committee.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 7.15
Conveying Public Safety for All findings and current initiatives

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on that. Should be put this in public safety?

>> CLERK: Item 8.1.

Officer's
Communication
(ID # 26-0324) City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Woo-hoo!
even though there is so much snow it is never early to plan block parties. If your blog is not there, contact the clerk's office to find out how you can hold a block party. In the discussion?

That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK: 9.1

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: I would like to waive the readings of 9.1-9.8 but I would like to point out there are exciting events put on the calendar including Greek independence day celebration, -- flag raising and the Mystic River Herring run, and the Davis Square farmers market is getting started. I wanted to highlight those events before we waive the readings.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Unemotionally brief comment on one of these items the Fred-- Memorial 6K, I happen to know Fred-- who this race is for, a close friend of my family. I was really excited to see this race. He was somebody who was an ambassador for peace, good will and generosity. And I am excited that this is part of our community. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Fantastic. I encourage folks to go out and participate and cheer for all of these events.

Those items are all -- the reading is waived. Those items are all approved.

>> Mr. President I move to waive readings of 9.9-9.12.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Those items are referred to Land Use Committee.

>> CLERK:

-- 9.13. Public
Communication Tufts University conveying its Spring 2026 Accountability Report.

(ID # 26-0326)

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Tufts requires students living off-campus-- to enforce occupancy limits.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Among other things occupancy limits no longer exist, other than health code.

Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: I love sharing history as a senior member of this Council. Two predecessors made this happen, to prevent overcrowding... Instead of having a rule to have to get rid of because it was unfair.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you Mr. President. Through you to Councilor Hardt, thank you for going a little deeper about that. And because we do have -- there was supposed to be a dorm process happening in Tufts.

I am interested in bringing it before committee. If it is okay, I would like to have you speak in the committee for the HCDE if mine sending it through you to Councilor Hardt, sending it to committee. I always like to be sorrow.

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Yes I would like to discuss it further thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: This item is referred to-- a copy placed on a fount with copy to HCD.

>> Thank you.

>> CLERK:

10.2

By Councilor Wheeler

That this Council review construction-related parking in the area of Oak Street and Bolton Street

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That will be laid on the table for next meeting or refer to traffic and parking?

We can refer to Traffic and Parking Committee.

Next item.

>> CLERK:

10.3

62 individuals, including 60 residents, submitting comments re: item #26-0114, Fiscal Year 2027 budget priorities.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file..

>> CLERK:

10.4

Thouis Jones submitting comments re: bike lanes.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:

That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK:

10.5

Public

Communication

(ID # 26-0377) Courtney Pollack submitting comments re: items #26-0055, #26-0156, and #26-0168, requests regarding public safety grants.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file.

That brings us to the end of the agenda.

Any late items?

>> CLERK: No further items before this body.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All right with that Councilor Ewen-Campen moved to adjourn.

Good work folks.

We are adjourned.

>> [End]