



**City of Somerville,
Massachusetts**
**Housing and Community Development
Committee**
Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

**6:00 PM City Council Committee Room and Remote
Participation**

This meeting was held in the City Council Committee Room and via Zoom for remote participation, and was called to order by Chair Strezo at 6:01 p.m. and adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

The Committee entered into recess at 7:56 p.m. and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

Others present:

Michael Potere – Assistant Clerk of Committees; Hannah Carrillo – Legislative Liaison; Ellen Shachter – Director of the Office of Housing Stability; Rachel Nadkarni – Director of Economic Development; Ted Fields – Senior Planner, Economic Development; Greg Jenkins – Director of the Arts Council; Beatriz Gomez Mouakad – Ward 5 City Councilor; Ann Gille – Director of Human Resources; Waleska Alves – Recruitment Manager; James Stanford – Deputy Chief, Somerville Police Department; Joseph Teves – Officer, Somerville Police Department.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Kristen Strezo, Vice Chair Judy Pineda Neufeld and Jesse Clingan

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Housing and Community Development Committee Meeting of May 30, 2023.

[23-0961](#)

Accepted

Housing Stability

2. That the Director of the Office of Housing Stability appear before the Housing and Community Development Committee to discuss the current status of Somerville residents facing displacement and the number of households seeking rental assistance.

[22-0085](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo

Kept in committee

Armory

3. That the Administration report to this Council on the usage of the Armory building by existing tenants, city tenants, and what have been the vacancies. [23-1310](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Strezo
Kept in committee
4. That the Director of Economic Development take the steps described within, relative to the Armory building. [23-1309](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Strezo
Kept in committee
5. That the Director of the Arts Council and the Director of Economic Development take the steps outlined within, relative to the Armory building. [23-1308](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Strezo
Recommended to be marked work completed

Police

6. That the Chief of Police and relevant departments discuss the use and effectiveness of the Community Alert System and advise if an update to the system is necessary. [23-0523](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Strezo
Kept in committee

Crossing Guards

7. That the Chief of Police inform this Council which intersections are prioritized with crossing guards. [22-1568](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Strezo, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Burnley Jr.
Kept in committee
8. That the Director of Human Resources discuss the possibility of modernizing crossing guard positions to attract candidates and increase hiring. [22-1567](#)
Sponsors: Councilor Strezo, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Burnley Jr.
Recommended to be marked work completed
9. That the Director of Human Resources update this Council on the hiring [22-1566](#)

process and staffing numbers for crossing guards for the 2022-2023 school year.

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be marked work completed

Referenced Documents:

- Housing - 2023-09-20 Crossing Guard Progress Fy24 (with 23-1566, 23-1567)
- Housing - 2023-09-20 230915_Armory_HCDMemo 9.20.23 (with 23-1308, 23-1309, 23-1310)
- Housing - 2023-09-20 Somerville Armory Master Plan - Short HCD Presentation 9.20.23