



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

Legislative Matters Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual

This meeting was held via GoToWebinar and was called to order by Chair Davis at 6:02 pm and adjourned at 7:26 pm with a roll call vote of 4 in favor (Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley, Councilor Kelly, and Chair Davis), none opposed, and 1 absent (Councilor McLaughlin).

Councilor McLaughlin was unable to attend due to travel.

Others present: Neha Singh – Mayor’s Office, Brendan Salisbury – City Clerk’s Office, Joe Lynch – Somerville Licensing Commission, Stephanie Widzowski – Clerk of Committees.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Lance L. Davis, Vice Chair Charlotte Kelly, Willie Burnley Jr. and Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott
Absent: Matthew McLaughlin

1. Approval of the Legislative Matters Committee Minutes of January 31, 2023. [23-0193](#)

Accepted

Aye: Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
Absent: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislative Matters Committee Meeting of February 14, 2023. [23-0253](#)

Accepted

Aye: Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
Absent: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

Somerville Public Schools STAR

3. Conveying the 2022 Surveillance Technology Annual Report as it relates to Somerville Public Schools. [23-0107](#)

Recommended to be marked work completed

Family and Relationship Structure

4. Amending Section 1-4 of the Code of Ordinance to add definitions for relationship status and intimate personal relationship. [22-1992](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
- Recommended to be approved as amended
- Aye:** Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- Absent:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin
5. Amending Section 2-326 of the Code of Ordinances, related to the Personnel program. [22-1993](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
- Recommended to be approved as amended
- Aye:** Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- Absent:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin
6. Amending Sections 7-41, 7-43, 7-44, and 7-47 of the Code of Ordinances, related to Fair Housing. [22-1994](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
- Kept in committee
7. Amending Section 15-31 of the Code of Ordinances, related to the Code of Conduct, Ethics, and Financial Disclosure. [22-1995](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
- Recommended to be placed on file
- Aye:** Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- Absent:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin
8. Amending Section 10-102 of the Code of Ordinances, regarding the definition of biased based policing. [22-1996](#)
- Sponsors:** Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
- Recommended to be approved as amended
- Aye:** Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- Absent:** Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

9. Organization for Polyamory and Ethical Non-Monogamy (OPEN) submitting comments re: nondiscrimination provisions in ordinances based on relationship structure. [23-0299](#)

Recommended to be marked work completed

Licensing Commission Alternative

10. Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition Authorizing the City to Appoint an Alternate Member to the Somerville Licensing Commission. [23-0256](#)

Recommended to be approved

Aye: Chairperson Davis, Vice Chair Kelly, City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr. and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

Absent: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

Paid Leave for Survivors

11. Amending Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 2 of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section establishing Paid Leave for Survivors. [23-0075](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Kelly

Kept in committee

12. In Support of Survivors. [23-0077](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr.

Kept in committee

13. Commission for Women submitting comments re: item #23-0075, an Ordinance establishing Paid Leave for Survivors. [23-0218](#)

Kept in committee