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CITY OF SOMERVILLE

City of Somerville City Council Meeting

May 28, 2026

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (ET)
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>> [Recording in progress]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Sorry for the slight delay there. This is the meeting of the City Council Regular Meeting, Thursday May 28. My name is Lance Davis, I am presiding, he/him. Please note that audio and vide of this meeting is being recorded, and shown on the local access channel, and on the Somerville City Council website, and will be available for future review.

Madam Clerk please call the roll.

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:
Here

>> COUNCILOR LINK:
Here

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:
Present

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:
Present

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:
Present

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:
Here

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:
--

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

Here

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:
Here

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:
here

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:
present

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:
Here.

>> CLERK: We are at quorum.

Thank you very much.

Pursuant to rule 32 the city Council let it be known that the City Council salutes the flag of the United states of America. Let us recall our oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth to the best of our abilities and understanding.

We begin our meetings with a moment of silence.

Any members wishing to say a few words about members of our community tonight?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: I would like to remember Patricia Sills Silva, who recently passed away at the age of 96. Born and raised in Somerville, Patricia was remembered by her family and friends as someone who enjoyed curiosity and had an independent spirit. Known affectionately as Patty, Patsy, Toots, Nana, and mom, she was a beloved mother sister and friend who touched many lives through her warmth kindness and vibrant personality. Her family described her as someone who was always fully present in every moment and unafraid to dance. We extend our deepest condolences to her son James Silva Jr. her extended family and friends and all who loved her.

May she rest in peace.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

Any others?

Seeing none with everyone in the chamber please rise as you're able for a moment of silence.

>> [Moment of silence]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

All right. First item on the agenda Madame clerk.

>> CLERK:

Minutes

(ID # 26-0934)

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no discussion, the item is laid on the table for approval.

>> CLERK: Minutes

(ID # 26-0935)

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 11, 2026

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: See no discussion, that item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK: Moving into citations.

(ID # 26-0923)

By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Ewen-Campen Commending Jerry Cajuste and Medno Dawson for outstanding dedication, professionalism, and service as crossing guards in one of the busiest and most heavily trafficked neighborhoods.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: Thank you Mr. President, we had a ceremony yesterday, very much well attended.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Did we... We did that yesterday. Took me a minute. Thank you. Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you Mr. President I wanted to mention that there are a number of open positions. We are always looking for crossing guards, and there are active listings and looking for crossing guards, lead crossing guards, crossing pedestrians seldom makes the news but it is one of the leading causes of injuries. Take a look and see what the jobs require. It is a union job, not everybody finds it fits in their schedule but if it is right for you we need you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Madame clerk would you please reflect that Councilor Sait has joined us.

No public hearings.

In that case there are a few I didn't want to take out of order.

Two items.

5.1

And then the second, 10.2

>> CLERK: Correct.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: 5.1

See no objections to take that out of order.

And 4.2

Do you want to do that in order?

We can jump ahead one spot.

So Madam Clerk, read 5.1

>> CLERK: 5.1. Mayor's Proclaiming May 2026 to be Jewish American Heritage Communication Month.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I know we have Mayor Wilson here to speak on this item.

Mayor Wilson?

>> Thank you Mr. President, honorable council, through you, we find ourselves in May. May is Jewish American heritage month. We are home in Somerville doing really amazing vibrant Jewish community that is contributed so much diversity over the years and it is really important to just call attention to how much we appreciate our Jewish community here.

We have to note, this has happened at a time when there is rising incidence nationally and locally of hate incidents and anti-Semitism, that are quite unfortunate that our Jewish friends and neighbors and colleagues are being subjected to.

I want to call a bright spot here. Really hold up our Jewish Community, make sure they feel seen, feel safe, and feel respected.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you. Is anyone here that you want to be recognized?

>> They are not able to be here today.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Can you please read the proclamation in full?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:
Absolutely. Madam Clerk

>> CLERK: Whereas Jewish-American heritage month was established in 2006 recognizing the more than 350 year history of Jewish contributions to the United States and the American colonies;

And whereas during Jewish American heritage month we celebrate the immeasurable impact of Jewish value, contribution, and culture on the Somerville success in character.

And whereas. The March for civil rights, women's rights, racial equity in LGBTQ+ rights;

And whereas Jewish Americans are an integral part of our city, noting their strength and authority be other contributions as workers, educators, innovators, leaders, carjackers, entrepreneurs, students, advocates, neighbors and more.

And whereas a disturbing rise of global anti-Semitism including here in Somerville has resulted in violence and dangerous rhetoric directed against the Jewish community.

And whereas the city of Somerville stance against all forms of hate including anti-Semitism and is committed to standing with Jewish American residents of Somerville, the Commonwealth and everywhere.

And whereas the City of Somerville probably recognizes and celebrates the rich Americans for their enduring resilience and unwavering advocacy for justice and steadfast commitment to uplifting others and strengthening the fabric of our city.

Now therefore be it known to all those present the mayor of the City of Somerville respectfully proclaims May 2026, a Jewish-American heritage month honoring the contributions of Jewish Americans.

Proclaimed on this day, -- 14th of May, 2026 by Jake Wilson, Mayor.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you for reading that out loud. I wanted to thank Mayor Wilson and demonstration for putting this proclamation forward. It does matter and our Jewish community of which I am a member of the tribe, has done a lot for Somerville.

And visibility matters and to remind all of us that we are strong together as a community. And really all of us pull together, especially in these tough times and Somerville is here for support and we do this together.

Thank you.

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

Next item out of order, a little wrinkle on this, supplemental item. And in discussion earlier this week we were able to anticipated but it was not able to be submitted. It is not time as such to take action tonight. Following the rules we will not elaborate on this so we will The item is laid on the table, And this administration did agree to speak to some big picture scheduling and from the transparency standpoint it would be good for the public to hear have time. This is in terms of not knowing -- Advocacy for the item how the big picture for scheduling-- and I thought it would be helpful for the public to hear. So we will lay this item for discussion into weeks.

>> The appropriation request tonight is for an appropriation of funds to fund the immediate cost items in a memorandum of understanding the executive has signed with the police superior officers union.

This contract includes amendments to the body on camera policy, and other benefits amendment. The appropriation here is the 3% COLA for the remaining four weeks of this fiscal year, as is the custom here to ratify a contract; on the city side we would appropriate funds for the cost items for the balance of this two-year comeback for an appropriation for the retro cost of the contract.

Also pending before this Council separately is a grant acceptance which is the Council were to accept it on behalf of the city, would fund the technology costs for a body worn camera program. Those funds will come from the state and would have to be used to purchase technology costs.

Separately, if we were to implement a body worn camera program there are personal services costs associated with that that would not be funded through the grant, we would be seeking another appropriation at a future date, at a time when the program were implemented, if that is the direction the city goes in.

So there are three moving parts: the appropriation for immediate personal services costs from the MLA; the grant acceptance and appropriation for additional personal services costs that would be associated with implementation of the body worn camera program, for that to occur.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: One moment. I have received the note that said, did we not read the item?

I thought we did. By mistake.

For the record let's read the item in and will place it on the table.

>> CLERK: Mayor's request:
26-0915, Requesting the appropriation of \$15,015 from the salary contingency account to the Police Department personnel services salary account to fund a collective bargaining agreement with the Somerville Police superior officers association.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Very good. Thank you – we will that item on the table.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

--

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott, there is no deliberation, no discussion on this item, this item ...

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I understand. It was a factual mistake we made.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: And we can correct that factual mistake next week unless you want to...

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: As it relates to a matter of law, the technology impact report must be accepted if we can accept any grant material.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott you're not recognized; we can lay this item on the table, and we can have those discussions in due course.

Back to the beginning of the agenda, Madam Clerk.

Regular order of should say.

>> [Recording in progress.

>> CLERK:

4.1. Ordinance By Councilor Ewen-Campen
(ID # 26-0919)

Proposing an amendment to Section 2-6 of the Code of Ordinances, the Welcoming Communities Ordinance.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen do we want to lay that on the table or take it up with you legislative matters.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: I was hoping we would take this up and get this thing passed.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: If there is no objection to that I am done. So we will speak to the siren first and take the report out of order.

Go ahead

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President so the item of the agenda physically revised version of the amended, welcoming community ordinance passed unanimously out of legislative matters I want to Thank chair Scott for prioritizing this item on the committee and my colleagues on the committee for working so hard to get it over the finish line.

I will briefly introduce is because when we first brought it in we all gave long, impassioned speeches about this. And I ask if we take up the reports we can replace that item with this amended one.

So briefly on the substance, I am really proud that we are taking this up tonight. This was a really collaborative effort between Councilor Link, me, and demonstration in the ACLU of Massachusetts; but really these are welcoming committee ordinance with the City of Somerville passed in 2019. And that is often referred to as the sanctuary city ordinance, where we say we are not going to participate in federal immigration work.

We are now living in a different reality. We have a federal government that is assaulting our constitutional rights across the board, not just in immigration-- other certainly in that field as well-- and we thought it was important to make it really clear to the public that the City of Somerville is never going to collaborate or participate in any of that federal overreach. Whether that is federal immigration; whether that is surveillance, whether that is identifying and seeking to punish people for any constitutionally protected activity. It is relatively simple and straightforward I encourage everyone to read the ordinance and Mr. President I am thrilled that we are moving on this tonight.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Okay so The item is laid on the table for approval.

I apologize Madam Clerk for not doing that up ahead of time.

Legislative reports, item 6 C if there is no objection. Seeing none...

>> CLERK: Yes.

6.C.1. Committee Report

Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting
(ID # 26-0927)
on May 19, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

Sorry Councilor Scott.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I don't know if I was still in the doghouse.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: It's not that long Councilor.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you President Davis. The legislative matter met on the 19 for about an hour and 15 minutes, we had two large matters. We had an excellent presentation from -- Epstein from the ACLU -- And contributions from our very much appreciated director of the office of immigrant affairs director Tracy Nagel (sounds like).

It was a wonderful conversation, and I encourage everyone to watch it. There are a few minor points still to be ironed out. And I will go to the details but happy to get this to the final report and that it was kept in committee it will mark as work complete on future agenda, so we don't have the duplication.

There was also an item to discuss an ordinance to an amendment to establishment of registry-- many councilors have been pushing on this for many years, an ordinance submitted by the prior administration on the way out the door. The administration delivered a message that they are little prepared to move on this ordinance and are prepared to discuss it basically.

And so we had a discussion of it in committee. And there was a great deal of support expressed for the urgency of the matter. And I think a general recognition that our job as a legislative body is the past laws; it is the job of the executive to faithfully execute those laws. That item was also getting committee, and I request the report be submitted as accepted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the committee report?

Seeing none, let me make sure I heard and remember correctly. The initial version of the amendment to the welcoming communities ordinance was left in committee?

So see no discussion the committee report is approved. We will lay this item off the table, and discussions to the changes to the new version of the amended welcoming communities ordinance that Councilor Ewen-Campen introduced a few moments ago.

Seeing none, that item is approved.

Do we have an ordinance ready to enroll?

Madam Clerk. We need three roll calls, one for approval, one for enrollment, third for amendments.

>> CLERK:

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:
yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:
yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:
yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:
yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:
yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

yes

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That Artemis approved and now on enrollment.

>> CLERK:

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

es

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

yes

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is now enrolled. Finally on ordainment.

>> CLERK:

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

yes please

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

yes.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:

That item is ordained. Period. Thank you folks. That takes us to our next item on the agenda.

Madam Clerk?

>> CLERK: Yes.

Back to 4.2

Resolution By Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Davis
(ID # 26-0921)

In support of voluntary recognition for Somerville Workers United.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: Thank you Mr. President and to the collaborators. This Council has a long tradition of supporting unions and workers in the process of organizing. When they reach to us for support whether showing up at a rally or picket line or sponsoring a resolution here at city hall, today we have the opportunity to show our support for a group of workers who are particularly close to our heart at the Councilors who are in the process of organizing a union right now.

So amongst the workers who serve the City of Somerville there are around 200 workers who were not currently utilized, in over the last several years they have been working to form Somerville workers United.

And when they reached out last week to ask for this Council's support in the request to be voluntarily recognized I was thrilled to do so and invited some of these folks to speak to us tonight.

So I've been at this Councilors for nine years and I have not seen layoffs.

And I know that this round of layoffs has just been incredibly difficult. Obviously for the workers who lost their jobs. And for their colleagues.

And it has brought a real sense of urgency to the work that they do, and this organization in particular.

And so for members of the public I encourage you to read the text of the resolution, which sheds a little bit of light in the history of these efforts in articulates some of the specific reasons that they believe a union will be mutually beneficial for the workers and for the administration.

And I would like to sponsor three speakers tonight: Luis --, Benjamin Weiner and Kate Bossingham in whatever order there was to appear.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The whole Council like to sign on.

Councilor Ewen-Campen would like to sponsor the three aforementioned speakers. Any objections?

Seeing none, feel free to come on up. When you come to speak please state your name so we can get it in the record correctly. And you can-- in whatever order you do not have to wait for me to recognize you. You can just go ahead to the next beaker.

>> My name is Luis -- I was a former strategic planning and equity manager within the office of strategic planning and community develop meant. I was the first and last person to hold this position, having been laid off and having my position eliminated just a few weeks shy of my four-year work anniversary.

Before I go further I would like to acknowledge and thank some of our fellow laid-off workers with whom I share my home, whose stories inspired need to complete and speak,.

A fellow college included people who work with our most vulnerable residents before they were silenced, who work directly in equity work before they were dismissed and were months from retirement before they were disrespectfully fired. I would like to speak to the Council on this important issue about why recognizing respecting a collective bargaining process critical to the work of work in Somerville where everyone belongs in contrived.

We would put all our faith and trust on our elected people to carry out the vision and values tied to our electoral process; we also bear the responsibility of holding them accountable to the task.

I served as a of the antidisplacement task force, a project that led the historic and unanimous vote to this City Council in support of the home rule petition for mobilization; during the community engagement phase for the drafting of the petition we heard and spoke to residents, advocacy groups, property owners, and people who were displaced from our city.

To create a bold and realistic proposal to give the threads of our community fabric from fraying, and we did it in less than half the time it took Boston, months not years.

Additionally this 50 member task force created just as many recommendation to reduce the rate of displacement in a collaborative and equity centered way. For many this was the first time they were satisfied with their civic experience.

At the completion of the task force a member of our community reached out to the administration by email and spoke highly of me in ways that made the -- child displaced as an inner-city apartment as a young adult swell with pride.

The letter in part read, "thank you for the work you put into this project for introducing us to each other and respect and openness reflected on our working groups, and for your gentle nudges to get us to the finish line."

It was a monumental project to manage. I suspect we all worked so hard for it because of course the work is important but also because we wanted to make you proud.

That task force member went on to do great things for this city, including plan and roles as part of the mayor elect Jake Wilson transition team.

My position was created about five years ago. Some of you might remember its the liberation. Somerville was one of four cities across the country to have a position like mine included Boston.

Those who created the position were not around me to see get hired in fact the very first thing I did on my first day was attend my hiring manager's farewell party as he went on to become Watertown city manager.

I greatly appreciate his faith in trusting me to carry out the intent and purpose of why the strategic planning in equity management position was created in the first place. I learned that the position had sat vacant for over a year before I eventually filled it; that the city was being patient and making sure they had the right candidate for the job in acknowledging the importance and necessity of the work.

That I was labeled a "unicorn" during the interview panel discussions and the city would be remiss-- to put it lightly-- and not seizing the opportunity to offer me the position.

I will repeat my former title to you. Because I always have to. It is not something that makes a lot of sense to most folks hearing the first time: strategic planning and equity manager.

I tell people I helped our division within OSPPCD moving the city towards the future where everyone belongs by working with them to maintain structures to build principles of justice and democracy. I was and am committed to that work of building this future out.

I joined the community of musical practitioners focused on what he working quickly and got to work on learning and building upon this incredible body of knowledge.

At one point I was entrusted to lead the statewide coalition of equity practitioners from over 50 municipality across state. Members of the coalition would also go on to do great things for the city, such as participating in the mayor elect transition committee. I say all of us, not to brag what the city is missing out on in eliminating my position to illustrate why it is so important to have a structure in place to preserve what we as a community care deeply for.

Why it is important for us as a community to have a way to make sure that our values are represented across all levels of government.

And why we need a structure that empowers all people to carry on this work of pulling and more just and democratic future, where we all belong. And see us reflected in the change around us.

A union is that structure. I was especially saddened to hear about layoffs happening in sectors of work that were directly charged and entrusted with carrying out the mission of work that challenge the existing structures for the better.

My position for example was meant to interrupt the status quo of the city's functioning. The chart of the position was to challenge our structures to ensure that equity and justice in department priorities in all departmental programs, projects and policies were "identifying, describing and dismantling structures of oppression."

And that was the job not bending the rules to help a few people out along the way while otherwise keeping the status quo in place.

Our organizing for collective organ should have prevented the work we were doing for our most vulnerable residents from being unceremoniously strangled.

It should have provided a way for us to work collaboratively with the administration to ensure that our knowledge was being built upon. That our networks were expanded. And that the spark embers of inspiration in our staff were nurtured.

In staff years of work they were reduced to five minute meeting, informing me that my position was limited in an attempt to collaboratively engage with the administration in good faith, with the formal recognition.

Will live in a community that is both, progressive, and committed to fighting for one another, including our most vulnerable residents.

On the campaign trail, elected officials will tell you just as much and even paint a picture of Somerville and contrast to the federal demonstration that is pressing more on equity.

The narrative of Somerville does not online with the campaign trail I implore my fellow community members to interrogate and take note on how senior executives in the city structure did these layoffs, their intent and purpose. Thank you for your time.

>> Thank you President Davis.

My name is Benjamin Weiner. I worked for the City of Somerville for about 4 1/2 years. Currently serve as inclusionary housing program manager within Somerville's housing division.

My colleagues and I stand before you today, not just as public servants, but as fellow community members, many of whom are also constituents and voters who rely on Somerville public services just as you do.

We came together as a union because we believe in the work we do for the city. I personally joined this movement to organize because we need to ensure our work is sustainable. And we do not burn out trying to constantly do more with less.

I want to speak on behalf of Somerville workers united, and I also want to speak on the vantage point of a dedicated, affordable housing professional.

Last week, we as a city lost not only 13 full-time staff like Luis, but also 16 open positions. These layoffs sent a message to staff across the city, me included, that we are on our own now help is coming.

That we can be used as tools for political bargains and expect nothing in return.

The housing division has recently championed some of our most involved in ambitious projects. To name some examples, Somerville's consolidated waitlist which allows individuals and families to apply for multiple affordable rental opportunities with a single application.

Our revitalized home improvement program helps fund critical repairs to ensure the health and safety of income- eligible residents are keeping properties of the code.

Not to mention various fully affordable projects that our staff ensures were funded and remained affordable. There are so many other project that I do not have time to name.

I cannot overstate how proud I am to be part of that work. I also cannot stress enough that the projects of this caliber require a significant investment of staff time, not just to implement but also to maintain.

It is not a new or unknown issue the talented staff leave the city, often citing low wages and unfair expectations. And when they leave their responsibilities fall to those remain.

In the last two years, housing added an administrative assistant in a housing intake specialist, positions that directly assisted residents in navigating our housing programs.

Despite those two positions, many staff were still overworked. And those two positions have since been removed.

For nearly a year, I've experienced firsthand the impact of understaffing. When our previous staff liaison to the condominium review board left last year I took on the responsibility. On top of my current workload I now had to learn and perform the duties of what comprises about 75-80% of another role. Of working over 50 hours a week.

That meant sacrificing time with my family, and my daughter.

Deposition took several months to fill. A type of extended vacancy that has become increasingly more common as every vacant position now falls under scrutiny.

Once the position was rebuilt, we found ourselves with yet another vacancy in the inclusionary housing team; and to my recollection I have not taking a full hour long lunch break in about six months.

City staff have reached a breaking point. Many staff are having to justify choosing a healthy work- life balance, knowing that choice means something else that takes a backseat. In the community needs to know the repercussions of this.

It may mean someone trying to resell their inclusionary unit is caring two mortgages for longer. That a developer's units remain vacant for longer or they have to wait for units on a vacant lot. That a constituent apply for inclusionary housing cannot give the lender proper notice and must turn down an affordable housing opportunity.

What our division has capacity for right now is not reach level service, and still we are being asked to do more all the time.

We continually hear from housing officials of housing is a top priority, but we just lost two positions, which is a 12% reduction in our capacity. What I personally find most disrespectful is that the staff who keep our programs running, every day we are never a part of any conversation.

Whether it be a conversation about what we need to keep our programs going, or which projects city leadership is willing to forfeit when they take away our staff capacity.

The conditions I have described are not limited to the housing division; they span across departments. We never want to be in this position again.

That is why we are organizing. We know that the only way to have a seat at the table, and some amount of agency in our work lives, is to join together collectively. We want to have the ability to set boundaries that are respected. We want to be paid for the hours we work. And be heard when we advocate for the help that we need.

For myself and on behalf of my colleagues, I look forward to the response of our leadership to this call for recognition of the rights that we deserve as workers. Thank you.

>> Thank you to the Council for having us here tonight to speak. My name is Kate Bossingham, and I work in the office of -- Before I came to Somerville I was a federal employee at the Environmental Protection Agency for 6 1/2 years. At the EPA I knew what it meant to work for and administrating hostile to the workforce-- changes to work policies that punished working families and outright union busting. This led to plummeting morale, distrust of management, staff turnover, and immense loss of institutional knowledge and certainly worsening environmental protections for the American people.

To put it mildly it was not a great place to work by the time I left. I considered myself very fortunate to be doing work find meaningful here in the City of Somerville. But I immediately notice some things were not right. Employees worked evening and weekend events with a clear flex policy. -- I talked to my workers and was not surprised organizing was already underway. As organizing as an opportunity to improve our workplace and provide better service for the Somerville public.

Mayor Wilson has gone out of his way to Pledge for support for unionized labor. So when Somerville workers United reached our card signing goal we were optimistic when we contacted the mayor to discuss voluntary recognition of our union. We received no response to two separate inquiries earlier this month of the mayor, Chief of Staff, and labor advisor.

Last Wednesday, the mayor attended a greater labor Council meeting and gave a speech in support of the unions.

Only two days later, after he emailed all staff assuring us that layoffs were finished, that a member of his responded to our email agreed to a meeting which is tomorrow. That is the kind of disregard that passes as leadership.

And all workers who work consistent to provide accesibility, medication, language access, racial and social justice, health, and grants deserve a union.

When I was at EPA and management overlook the parties experience, I was angry and tonight too. I expected better from the city of Somerville.

Fortunately we do not have to depend on the goodwill of an administration who has not respected worker rights because we know our rights. We look forward to fighting for them.

Thank you for your time.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen, anything further?

A discussion?

The entire Council signed on. That item is approved.

Will take a five minute recess.

Councilor Mbah, would you like to speak on the item?

Councilor, Mbah, you requesting to take an item out of order?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: (indiscernible) (off mic) ...

(off mic)

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no objections can you read items 4.4 and 4.5?

>> CLERK:

(ID # 26-0916)

That the Administration share all the positions that were cut from the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, and their departments, and explain how they align with the Mayor's equity agenda.

(ID # 26-0918)

That the Administration appear before the City Council to present its organizational restructuring.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah do you want to speak to those items?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Yes Mr. President. First I want to thank the good Councilor for putting this forward and thank you to Luis, Ben, and Kate for speaking.

Actually, my resolutions were motivated by some of these changes. I myself was very anxious. I got some calls, saw some emails. And I was taken aback. I mean, one of the greatest appreciations I had from the previous administration was the focus on equity. Because I have always said that if a municipal government does not reflect the population itself, then don't use the word "equity" in your administration.

The first time I went out to lunch with Mayor Ballantine, I told her she would be remembered by her effort to be able to put that into practice.

And hearing this is really something that really worries me. I really needed to know why this is happening. The eliminated positions in the affected department needs to help the Councilor evaluate how this will impact the population, language access, public health, housing stability, youth services, and other practices and hope this resolution seeks to ensure that budget decisions align with the administration's public restated equity goals. And how organizational and staffing changes may affect service delivery across community also when we talk about a public presentation before the Council, it helps to promote transparency, improved communication between the Councilors and the administration and allow Councilors to ask questions regarding operational efficiencies, accountability measures, workforce impacted we heard today, in continuity of residential services that is happening.

I hope that we will have a robust conversation and the discussion will help us ensure that any restructuring advances the city strategy priorities, protect institutional knowledge and support effective government operation for residents across the community. I want to thank everyone that showed up here and I look forward to our conversations in the next couple weeks. Thank you for this opportunity.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

Those two items are approved. We will take a five-ish minute recess.

>> [5-min recess]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Members please return to your seats. We need to get this meeting back in session.

>> [Return from recess]

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: You want to take a seat Chris, so you can join us?

(laughter)

I can see that we have a quorum in the room. I call this meeting back to order. Let's see, Madam Clerk, where are we?

4.3?

(ID # 26-0917)

That the Director of Mobility, the Director of Engineering, the Director of Parking and the Chief of Police appear before the Traffic and Parking Committee to review traffic flows and enforcement practices around schools citywide during drop-of and pick-up, as detailed within.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Awesome. I will wait while Councilor Mbah returns to the room.

Councilor Mbah we just read item 4.3, the order we put in for the director of mobility.

Which you like to speak to that item?

Go ahead.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: ... I will see what-- I think this is self-explanatory. The main reason why this order came in was, if you look across school zones, it is bananas. When you see they are signs that say do not enter during these hours. People do not read that. I have actually seen a car almost ran a crossing guard, just on our street, perpendicular to -- Boulevard.

There are so many things we need to reassess and see how we can protect our most vulnerable residents, presidents, crossing guards alike just to improve traffic flow around school zones around those peak hours.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Which you like to send that to traffic and parking for discussion?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Yes please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I now declare this public hearing closed.?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to make an amendment, if...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Which you like to propose an amendment if you wish, you have the floor.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Be my guest.

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: I would like to propose adding an after traffic flows and enforcement practices in construction impacts as well.

Unless someone sees a problem with that.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So it would be to review traffic flows and enforcement practices and construction impact?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Yes this is a big issue, and I noticed that construction impacts the traffic flow, the safety and pedestrians getting to the schools. And so I thought this would be a good opportunity since it is very related. But I'm happy to withdraw it, if you would not like to add it.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion on the proposed amendment?

Councilor Sait?

>> COUNCILOR SAIT: I agree Mr. President with Councilor Hardt. Is it city related construction or in private properties?

So we know in the committee exactly what to discuss.

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Yes city construction.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All right, seeing no further discussion on the amendment... On the amendment, Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: I would like to thank the good Councilor. As you know, the good Councilor is not just amending my policy order. We can presume she is also about to sign on to it before it is amended; we are going to hear about any cosponsors.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I'm sure Councilor Hardt can speak for herself in terms of being willing to sign on.

Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Thank you I would like to sign on. Yes please. I appreciate...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Hold the sign on... Because we have an amendment before us.

Any discussion on the amendment?

Councilor Hardt you would like to sign on.

Any other discussion on the item as amended?

Seeing none, that item is approved the copy to traffic department. The job everybody.

Next item brings us down to 6a.

Does that sound right?

>> CLERK: It is 4.6.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All my scribbles here. Thank you for giving me on task.

>> CLERK: (ID # 26-0931)

Requesting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pedestrian crossing infrastructure at the intersection of Route 16 and Woods Avenue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Thank you so much. So ... This is a dangerous intersection that a constituent raised a concern about. Right outside Dough Boy Stadium. There is a Dunkin' Donuts, in a gas station across the street so there is very frequent traffic when there are events that Dough Boy, with pedestrians crossing. And we know that route 16 is notorious for being dangerous and speeding.

So ... we would like to see the administration work with our state delegation to rectify that.

Councilor Link?

>> COUNCILOR LINK: Thank you Mr. President, with appreciation to the Councilor for Ward 7.

For including me. And Rt. 16 is one of those where, if you look at where accidents happen, there's a lot of red. And it is clearly a place that we need to pay more attention, like we are paying attention to where the Mystic causes a lot of addition accidents. And

we have route 16, not meant to be a high-speed road, but it is a high-speed road. we need to do as much as we can to slow down and make it safe for pedestrians.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

Councilor Mbah?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you to Councilor Link and Councilor Hardt. It is nice when you are new on the city Council to take things-- we have spoken about this or over a decade, and we moved on. Luckily, some of us are going to address it at the state level. This is a state issue. We are happy to look this up in the coming years. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: As I said before it never hurts to repeat a good request.

Any further discussion?

See none, The item is approved.

The wanted item with a copy to parking?

If you want to continue this discussion, it is the good Councilor noted, this is ultimately a state issue body that would be the venue, I think that would be the place to have the discussion. Unless you want to want to follow through with the administration to see what they can do with state independently. I am happy to defer however you prefer.

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Well, Councilor Link and I did not confer about the part before but I'm happy to continue with the administration. If you would like to have a discussion in committee that is fine with me.

>> through you Mr. President, I am happy as long as we keep the discussion going, it does not matter the venue.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Mbah so would be helpful to have...

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: So we can have this...

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Will wait until we get some folks in Beacon Hill that can help us address this.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Absolutely.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Sounds like a good plan. The item is approved.

Next item. Now I want to jump ahead to this one, we are finally here. Not that I have a particular interest in this, but it is at the bottom of my page, the one that I can see.

>> CLERK: --

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you Mr. President. The committee met with all members present in the help of legislative liaison-- who has been a tremendous asset to the finance committee and will be sorely missed in June. With took up a 16 item agenda, approved approximately -- From the opium stabilization fund, which supports residents struggle with substance use disorders. Staff described programs is focusing on trust building, health coordination, insurance access, and direct hospital referrals when needed and we approved -- for staff workstations and \$4000 committee transfer fund to fully fund this year's historic preservation funds.

Staff explained that the longer contract and gave us order pricing renewals in the lower time would allow the city to save money and reduce the total trash tonnage. There was also discussion regarding the labor conditions and union status at disposal labor facilities.

We approve the time only extension for improvements at junction Park in an amendment to the -- distinct improvement finance and program to incorporate the new assembly fire station. Several items were considered together, and we recommended approximately \$8 million from state funds to pay down existing bond obligations for past Street reduction work, union plus improvements in school building improvements, paying this town will reduce the bond interest owed and save the city from paying the interest.

We also approved to appropriations totaling approximately 1.1 million dollars for new fire pump vehicles. Party inform staff explained that aging vehicles and pandemic air supply chain disruptions have created long replacement times, with one truck finally arrived this week and another expected later this year, and the committee has approved proximally \$15,000 in state fire safety grants for school outreach senior safety programs and smoke detector installation.

And finally we approved in a proximally \$6700 prior-year invoice payment for Police Department finger printing software. The invoice had apparently been sent to an account of somebody who no longer worked for the Police Department and was not found but it was verified as authentic.

I ask that this committee report be accepted estimated.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: When we were discussing the tipping contract for waste innovation with did inquire about the union status of the site and the requested information in the following information regarding our belief from liaison-- which was very helpful, was that when we saw this is not a union job, however commission Wiseman also reached out to the other two dumping sites-- the-- transportation in the-- landfill and according to staff neither of those sites are new jobs either.

Apparently we don't have the choice to shop union on this one Mr. President. But I appreciate information from staff.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you Councilor Scott.

Any further discussion?

That The item is approved, is approved and we have a whole bunch of roll calls. Get your votes ready. Eight roll call votes.

>> CLERK:
26-0745.

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:
yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:
yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:
yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:
yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR MCLAUGHLIN:

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:
yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:
yes

>> CLERK:
-063
No voting needed.

>> CLERK:

26-0803.

>> Point of order Mr. President.

>> I would like to ask the request the Madam Clerk read the item number.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The agenda number?

6a9...

>> Absolutely.

>> CLERK:
6.a.9

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR CLINGAN:
yes

>> COUNCILOR STREZO:

yes

>> COUNCILOR SAIT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER:

yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR HARDT:

yes

>> COUNCILOR MBAH:

yes

>> COUNCILOR DAVIS:

yes

>> CLERK:

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: The item is approved. Next one.

>> CLERK:

Mr. President I was told by a wonderful CAO that we can bundle this altogether.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any objections taking all the roll calls together?

Here was exciting about all of these roll calls.

Six altogether at once.

If you want to discuss any of them in particular, the answer would be no. If you do not have any discussion we can do that.

So let's take them altogether. Good idea

>> CLERK:

All Kim

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN:

yes

>> COUNCILOR LINK:

yes

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT:

yes

>> 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:

Unanimous vote.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: All of those are approved then. Thank you very much.

Next item Madam Clerk.

>> CLERK: We are now at 6 b.

6.b.1

6.B.1. Committee Report

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Ewen-Campen?

>> COUNCILOR EWEN-CAMPEN: The land-use had a discussion meeting which was all focused on a series of four amendments proposed by former Bill White, all related to backyard colleges. Not going to going to attend religious but there are four proposed amendments. One of them is to make the allowable size of backyard lots smaller to match state regulations. Another one is to make backyard cottages legally accessible to other units, with the purpose of not being sold off as a condominium, but a rental unit owned by one of the residents of the other units. As of the first two.

There is another one that is to require public hearings, zoning board approval for a lot split, if you have a lot more than twice as big as a legal lot. Splitting it, you owe to legal lots, that is the administrator process, and the proposal is to require a neighborhood meeting about that.

And the fourth is if there is a lot split that creates more than five units to apply a 20% inclusionary unit to it.

We had a helpful discussion asking about this. I do not want to paint all that discussion with too broad a brush, but the big takeaways I think there is interest from both the administration and the Council looking at the dimensional backyard colleges the intention of let's discuss in detail, does this align with what we intend?

On the other ones, there were a number of legal bands, practical questions that folks had that I think we will need to address any future meeting. For folks interested in that conversation it was a very interesting deliberation, and I would encourage you to watch that meeting. And you are also welcome to just stay tuned.

We are anticipating a submission from the mayor's office relevant to backyard cottages. Obviously, Councilors are also encouraged to put in their own amendment if they wish.

To ask that this be accepted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Thank you Mr. President, of the report I want to highlight the lot split in lot merger piece of this discussion. It is something that I put items in on for several years now. And the piece where a plain reader of the language could be forgiven for being taken by surprise is that neighborhood meetings are already required in the zoning ordinance for a lot split or a lot merger. They require site plan approval.

However, it has been the determination of our permanent granting authority-- planning board-- to simply just have that be administratively handed off to the planning department to handle it.

Which means that the end result is a people who thought they knew what could be built near them that surprised by the project that is not what they had expected. Not what was legally allowed when they did the research on it.

I am very grateful to my former colleague for bringing another solution. Because my attempts to get an administrative solution over the last year have fallen short. I am eager to see this perhaps codified more firmly, and to make sure that our neighbors are informed about what can happen in the lots next to them. Thank you

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Other discussion?

Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you Mr. President. I want to say on that topic there is a lot of discussion of course on housing policy with different kinds of procedures that sometimes slow things down. Or provide obstacles.

I think sitting down and talking to people who live in the community is a reasonable thing to expect. It is a reasonable thing to ask.

I think it can be part of a healthy process, that doesn't mean that it is a beat-up point that takes forever. And have heard from numerous people around the city about incidents, cases where those conversations have been productive, and have led to productive outcomes for all involved. Thanks.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Other discussion?

Seeing none, the item is approved.

Next item Madam Clerk.

>> CLERK: You're now at 6.D.

Report of the Committee on School Building Facilities (ID # 26-0928) and Maintenance, meeting on May 21, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Link?

It has been a bit since we got to hear about this one. I almost forgot.

>> COUNCILOR LINK: Thank you Mr. President, the school buildings committee met for about 1 1/2 hrs., A couple of days ago -- A couple of days ago?

On the 21st.

Anyway we had a lively discussion about snow. And hopefully it is the last one for a little while.

We talked for more than you can think about playgrounds and snow; and ultimately what we came to as a group was that there is actually not a whole lot of room to change the way we are doing what we are doing.

What we did learn in the process though, was that there is a certain amount of the playgrounds that are built to be shoveled. So we are hoping that maybe, if there is some sort of plan that DPW and the districts can work out together to align on what is going to be treated and taken care of and what is not, my result and better outcomes. And Councilor Sait had a great suggestion and figuring out how to make the situation fun. Right?

You can play in the snow. So how can we make it so the snow, instead of being an obstacle, is something we can look forward to?

And also how we can do that equitably through making sure that all the kids have proper snow gear.

Another thing we discussed was air quality in the Kennedy school. There was no process in place for handling air quality concerns, specifically around mold, or potential mold.

So there is now a process in place that happens first in the school site, and it can be escalated to DPW.

In this case, they did an examination of the Kennedy school. They found no mold present. They found staining from past leaky pipes, but nothing to be concerned about air quality. We also spoke

Weekly about the MSBA updates for the Winter Hill school. And learned that they are about to begin boring on the site. They should start on Monday. And so that is going to give them an idea of what is under the ground there. They are assuming they will be some surprises, as well as whether or not they can do geothermal.

And I will note that this boring, unlike our friends over at Mass DOT will happen during daytime hours in consideration of our neighbors, so they are not up in the middle of the night.

And finally we talked about the -- School and the updates are going to be made there. so we can welcome the AIM students and make sure all the kids are safe. Some of these updates are I would say the updates are brought on specifically because of bringing the program in, but they are improvements for the safety of the kids all around. Specifically there are a bunch of changes that are going to be made to make sure that the playground is more enclosed. Which I am an Argen-- (sounds like) apparent, the most porous playground you can imagine, and your kids will take off if you're not careful.

I think it is a good one. I ask that this be accepted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you and thank you to Councilor Sait for that suggestion to make this snow fund. I look forward to the first City Council vs. kids snow fight.

Any discussion on the report?

Seeing none, The item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK: We are not in section 6.E.

6.E.1. Committee Report

Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting (ID # 26-0926) on May 18, 2026.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Sait?

>> COUNCILOR SAIT: Thank you Mr. President, the traffic and parking committee met with author remembers present. We took of the items related to parking on Oak, Bolton (sounds like), and Prospect Street. In which of these items in committee because we needed to hear from IS and SPD.

We had inspector LaRusso (sounds like) from ISD who spoke to the efforts made to address the issues in this area.

We had a really good discussion. And basically, I made the request that ISD meet with developers. And also that ISD, SPD in the parking department meet on a regular basis to discuss traffic enforcement, and ways to address them, and everyone agreed to meeting and trying to making sure everyone is on the same page. Making sure enforcement is happening.

And Lieutenant Holland committed to one, flagging this area for his staff. So when you get a phone call about this area, staff members are sent immediately. And another one is also going to the contractors who keep ... it is the same contractors parking multiple cars in front of driveways, in front of fire hydrants, making sure to have one-to-one conversations with them.

And so that's... yeah. We felt really proud of that achievement. And we will follow up with all the -- With everyone, especially with the neighbors to make sure these things are being implemented.

Regarding the accessibility updates, Webster Ave and Prosper St., third Director -- Share that these locations are part of the streetscape design. There is a significant

amount of work left and more information can be found online. The estimated design budget is about \$1.2 million. The city has security grant of about 800,000 and is looking for more funding sources for construction. And there are many components to be addressed in if the funds can be obtained the construction of the trees can start in spring of 2028.

Director Rosson (sounds like) said the ordinance was adopted in 2024, to make sure safe streets in the city is required to publish an annual report by March 1. The submission was the second one since the ordinance was adopted.

Senior planner Trevor spoke about the status -- And some are not prioritized due to the requirements from the state. And the city made the decision to focus on other projects that could be more reasonably completed without the need for state support.

Director Rosson also spoke to resource limitations, finance and staffing needs that have prevented mobility from moving at a faster pace. The director discussed in depth of the components and considerations are going to the design plans for screeds, bike lanes, and paving. And how the height of speed bumps decided throughout the city -- and the director said the first generation of speed bumps are larger than the most recent ones installed. Over time there has been improved quality control from the decision in the contract will be creating more consistent sizes in case you were wondering why some are higher than others.

We also received an update from director Rosson regarding piloting the dedicated bicycle signals, walk cycle at intersections throughout the city including Washington Street, Somerville Ave.; director Rosson said that the city follows guidelines to address mobility at intersections.

The last item, asking the director of mobility to evaluate opportunities for improving pedestrian safety at the intersection of Broadway and Main Street. Director Rosson address the concerns at this intersection, due to the higher volume of cars and speed.

The directors shared that small-scale traffic tweaks and upgrades have been implemented to reduce wait times at signals. Engineering was able to change the signal pattern and reduce congestion in the short term. There is an appetite for long-term intersection redesign. The director mentioned dislocations part of the five-year sidewalk Lambert specific and not been determined on the timeline for construction.

With that I asked this committee report be approved as submitted.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Thank you.

Any discussion under committee report?

Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: I appreciate the work of the traffic and parking committee on this and while some of these items have been marked as completed, it is my anticipation once we get through budget season to be moving for a public hearing where some of these items can be discussed before the Council. Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any other discussion?

Seeing none, The item is approved.

Next item.

>> CLERK:

We are now on the section of communications of the mayor.

26-0882.

Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Chapter 7 (ID # 26-0882) and Section 1-11(b) of the Code of Ordinances to require property owners provide a notice of building sale to tenants.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is referred to legislative matters.

Councilor Wheeler?

>> COUNCILOR WHEELER: Thank you so much Mr. President important my pulling up the comment I was going to make. A move to weigh the readings of item 7.2-7.20 and referring them to the committee on finance.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Seeing no objection that will be referred to the median finance.

Takes us to 26-0870

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item will be referred to housing, community development, and equity.

Next item.

>> I want to say, well done Mr. President.

On getting that name correct.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: They wrote it down for me, so I will not screw it this time. Thank you for give me credit. I would love to take credit for credit where credit is due, the Madam Clerk's office.

>> 26-0880.

Conveying the appointment of Steven Tolman to the Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is going to be placed on file. I want to make sure we communicate the list to the Councilors.

That item is placed on file..

next item.

>> CLERK: 26-0866.,
Mayor's
Communication
Proclaiming May 2026 to be Older Americans Month.

(ID # 26-0866)

>> Thank you Mr. President only to read about or anything, we actually presented it already at an event.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: It shall be so proclaimed.

Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Can we send this to HCDE?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We can send the proclamation to HCDE.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Thank you.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. With copy to community development and equity.

Net item, 8.1

>> CLERK:
(ID # 26-0873)
Condominium Review Board conveying the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, pursuant to Section 7-70 of the Code of Ordinances.

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

>> Mr. President?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Yep. Can you send a copy to HCDE as well?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. With a copy to housing and community development.

8.2

>> CLERK:

(ID # 26-0925)f

Fleet Manager conveying an annual report, pursuant to Section 12-122(e) of the Code of Ordinances.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Yes, near and dear to my heart.

Councilor Strezo?

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Mr. President I am so excited y'all.

This is the very first fleet manager report; the position goes back a long time but as far as I can find my search this is the first time we have gotten a report on the enforcement of -- the ordinance. First-time years ago.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We had a conversation on the report type thing, but I will trust your research Councilor Strezo.

>> COUNCILOR STREZO: Here is to having one now. I want to give my congratulations to city staff for pulling this together.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I could not be more proud it seems like just yesterday I was in preschool.

Any further discussion on that one?

Seeing none, That item is placed on file..

8.3

>> CLERK:

(ID # 26-0924)

City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Y'all know how much I love block parties and how much I miss reading off of the block party list.

Find out if your Street is on it and if not, ask why. And contact the clerk's office and you can find out how you can have a party on your very own block. It is very easy and very fun, and it is a great way to meet your neighbors. Hear hear for block parties. That item is placed on file.

>> CLERK: We are now under new business. Item 26-0886.

Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: I would like to move wage the readings of 9.1 to 9.16 and approve them this evening.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I have my notes that -- Can be an outlier. Is that consistent with your understanding?

Councilor Scott is nodding.

Let's waive the readings from 9.1-9.7 and 9.9-9.16.

And approve those tonight?

Unless there's an objection.

You read 9.8

>> CLERK:

(ID # 26-0894)

New Extended Operating Hours License, Ever Fitness, 14 McGrath Highway, opening 24/7 for in-store.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Does that will not require a public hearing?

>> Not that I'm aware of. I will defer to the clerk's office if they have other information.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Madam chief administrative officer and/or former clerk. The one with the wisdom of the item.

>> through you Emily Welsh administrators officer, this is inadequate there is some nuance here. It is at the discretion of the Council whether public hearings to be held. Is if anyone is so inclined to require a public hearing you are welcome to send the committee and in Council feels comfortable approving design is not a legal requirement by either -- or ordinance to hold a public hearing.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: We will take your word for it.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Perhaps I am remembering a past practice.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: AB there was a reason why we needed a public hearing.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: This one does not seem to rise to that.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Single call for a public hearing, Councilor Hardt we have read this one. You wish to approve this item?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: Yes please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

The item is approved.

>> CLERK: 26-0908.

11 individuals, including nine residents submitting comments re: item #26-0257, requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 2 and 9 Union Square, 286, 290, and 298 Somerville Avenue from Commercial Core 5 (CC5) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That I is placed on file. Councilor Ewen-Campen do you want to copy the committee?

>> Sure.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Let's send a copy to land use to function read the comments when we have the conversation.

>> CLERK: 26-0909

27 residents submitting comments re: items #26-0330, #26-0329, #26-0328, and #26-0329, Zoning Text Amendments related to backyard cottages and affordable dwelling units.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. Copy to committee. Councilor Ewen-Campen?

Copy to land use please.

Next time, 9.19.

>> CLERK:
(ID # 26-0910)

Diane Covino submitting comments re: item #26-0750, a Grant of Location to install 10 feet of conduit next to 135 Hudson Street.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Hardt?

>> COUNCILOR HARDT: If you could send that copy to licenses and permits please.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any discussion?

Seeing none, That item is placed on file., Copy with licenses and permits.

>> CLERK:
26-0911

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

>> CLERK:

26-0912.

(ID # 26-0910)

Diane Covino submitting comments re: item #26-0750, a Grant of Location to install 10 feet of conduit next to 135 Hudson Street.

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

>> CLERK:
(ID # 26-0913)

Blair Read submitting comments re: item #26-0287, a Zoning Text Amendment to amend sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I wonder if those 1's are supposed to be L's.

I can tell you on the page looks exactly...

>> CLERK: It looks like 01.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: So no one looks for 3.12L, very confusing, but it struck me that there are probably not 131 sections. Anyway now that we have a clear...

>> (off mic)

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Give Councilor Scott a few minutes.

That item is placed on file.. Councilor Ewen-Campen do you want a copy on that one?

Send a copy to land use as well. 9.23

>> CLERK:

Christopher Rosol submitting comments re: off leash dogs.

(ID # 26-0914)

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS:

Seeing none...

>> Can you please send that to public health, publicity?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed on file. And send a copy to public health and public safety.

Next item.

>> CLERK: We are not in supplemental items.

26-0937 by Ben Wheeler the capacity of the chair of the finance committee, containing information or conveying a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 27 budget on Wednesday, June 10.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: As noted on the open meeting laws, because of some reasons we got the data sorted out after the actual deadline for the regular agenda. Even though the whole point is to give notice to the public I felt it was necessary and timely to move forward on this one. Better to have folks know about this, because that is the whole point of the public hearing. This one is okay. Councilor Ewen-Campen do you want to speak on this at all?

>> Thank you for clarifying I apologize for the supplemental measure of the item. There was some scheduling confusion which was my fault. There will be a public budget hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 6 PM online.

Everyone in the public, everyone who calls Somerville home of any age or any background is invited to give us your questions and your comments about what is in the budget. What is not in the budget. How departments are spending the public's money.

Questions can be submitted in two ways: one by emailing publiccomments@somerville.ma.gov.

Or by attending this public hearing and making comments virtually, making comments, in that can be found on the Somerville website and the latest website that has links to

every City Council online meeting. And thank you we welcome your comments and your questions.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any further discussion?

Seeing none, That item is placed on file.

Next item.

>> CLERK: 26-0938.

-- Singh submitting comments on modern sewer rate.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That item is placed for public comment that will be placed on file.

Next item.

>> CLERK: No further items.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Any late items?

Sorry?

>> (off mic)

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Late items?

>> Thank you Mr. President. I did submit a late item today. My apologies I do not believe it could have been reasonably anticipated as it pertains to some -- in Union Square this morning and I did provide some text to the clerk. I would be happy to read the text to the order.

The title of the order is that the chief of police provide accommodation in writing regarding the circumstances surrounding cyclist traffic enforcement in union square on the morning of May 28. The text of the order says, SPD officer was observed by residents issuing warnings or citations to cyclists on the intersection of Washington and Webster on May 28, 2026 causing a degree of public concern in this Council request the following information in writing to a discussion of the incident can be had to inform the public at the department's policies and procedures. The officer was dispatched to the intersection this morning at whose direction.

And number two the reason an officer was dispatched at that intersection on the morning of May 28. Whether this is part of an overtime shift, or a regular patrol shift.

Four, if it was part of the regular patrol ship with a patroller, where that office will be the morning of May 28 and how many warnings and studies were issued on the morning of May 28 by that officer.

And six many stops in public interactions after conducted during the important activity.

In Summit whether any part of this activity was related to the

>> Massachusetts EOSPSS or any associate program like Council 25-5801.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott... You got me on the last point. I do not hear anything particular. That has time sensitivity I'm inclined to put this on the table. Is there specific timing on the grant that we should be aware of that would impact the timing?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Now that was a grant accepted under the assurances of police, no enforcement. I don't believe it is time sensitive I am happy to send it to Committee or if you would like to leave it on the table.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I think the thorough nature of the item-- is a way of addressing it but it does get all the information up to the public, which is what we are trying to accomplish here. That item is placed on file. Will have approval deliberation at the next meeting. Does that sound okay?

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: Appreciate that President Davis. I one more late item. Also given the time sensitivity of it.

I believe we received notification this day I would like to propose that this Council recognize and thank legislative liaison Yazmin Rodazi (sounds like) for her service to the city.

(audio cut off)

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: At the risk of speaking from the president's podium appear, hear hear, could not agree more and she will be dramatically missed, and very grateful for all her work especially when she was doing the work of literally three people at one time.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: That is correct sir. I hope that my weekly meetings with the liaison not been part of the reason for her departure.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Councilor Scott, we all know they probably were.

>> COUNCILOR SCOTT: They probably were. But over my time in the Council we have had a great number of legislative liaisons, some of whom are very nice people and at least one of them was a real stinker. But I really loved-- and I am not naming names Mr.

President, but I want to express my appreciation from all of us on the Council we appreciate Liaison Redazi's work.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Hear hear.

Councilor Mbah, any late items?

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: I have one late item. To congratulate liaison Yazmin, you been in "A" player in the city and we thank you for your work in the great service you have done to this community.

Am I in order for my next light item?

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: You have to tell me what the late item is.

>> COUNCILOR MBAH: Thank you in my capacity as a member of the Council want to congratulate Councilor McLaughlin for graduating from Harvard University.

I'm not done yet. I want to confer for five seconds my GP hat on him.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: Somebody take a picture quick. Councilor McLaughlin?

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: This was unforeseen. I did not tell anybody that I was graduating.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: I don't think it was that controversial of an issue.

>> COUNCILOR McLAUGHLIN: I encourage everyone here to look into the Kennedy school. Councilor Mbah graduated from there and I never thought it was for me; it has been a great expense, and I encourage all of you to check it out.

>> PRESIDENT DAVIS: That you go congratulations.

Anyone else have a late item?

All right, Seeing none. Good work everyone. Thank you Councilor Ewen-Campen moves to adjourn and we are adjourned.

>> [End]