



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Monday, February 3, 2025

6:00 PM

Virtual

The meeting took place remotely via Zoom and was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Strezo and adjourned at 7:50 PM on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors Sait, Mbah and Strezo), none against and none absent.

Others present:

Director Ashley Speliotis – Council on Aging, Director Karin Carroll – Board of Health, Director Luisa Oliveira - Public Space and Urban Forestry, Kimberly Hutter – Legislative Liaison, Peter Forcellese – Legislative Clerk.

Roll Call

Present: City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo and Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait

Absent: City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah

Councilor Mbah arrived at 6:45 PM

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee Meeting of December 10, 2024. [24-1770](#)

Accepted

Aye: City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Five City Councilor Sait

Absent: City Councilor At Large Mbah

2. That the Director of Health and Human Services provide an update on the availability and accessibility of free menstrual products in all city-owned bathrooms, including realistic sizes. [25-0039](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo

Recommended to be marked work completed

3. That the Administration return the Vietnam and Korean War memorials to a new, public location as soon as possible rather than waiting for a comprehensive plan for all veterans memorials. [25-0062](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

4. That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Veterans Services install signage at the previous locations of Veteran Memorial landmarks, acknowledging the missing Veterans Memorials and conveying to the public a timeline and/or plan for their re-installation. [25-0043](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo and Councilor Mbah

Recommended to be marked work completed

5. That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Veterans Services provide an estimated timeline as to when the removed Veteran's memorial monuments on the City Hall concourse will be re-installed. [25-0042](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Mbah and Councilor McLaughlin

Recommended to be marked work completed

6. That the Director of the Council on Aging discuss how the Council on Aging can help support seniors dealing with grocery store inflation and how the city can help support their transportation to regional discount grocery stores. [25-0041](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo

Recommended to be marked work completed

7. That the Administration create a full time staff position within the Executive office, known as a Senior Liaison, who will work to prevent potential barriers within Somerville to growing older in place. [25-0040](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo and Councilor Mbah

Recommended to be marked work completed

8. That the Administration hire a liaison dedicated to working with senior residents in order to amplify their voices in city decision making. [24-1178](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait

Recommended to be marked work completed

9. That this Council discuss how the lapse in consistent mail delivery in Somerville has affected municipal bill collection, reports of bills not received, or accounts marked delinquent. [24-0788](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Strezo

Recommended to be marked work completed