



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 5, 2010

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Thomas F. Taylor	Chair	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Vice Chair	Present	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Assistant City Solicitor	Present	
Eddie Nuzzo	Superintendent of Inspectional Services	Present	
Andrew Upton	Chair, Licensing Commission	Present	

189056 - An Ordinance Regarding Providing a Procedure for Reasonable Accommodation in the City's Land Use and Zoning and Building Regulations Pursuant to the Fair Housing Laws.:

Mr. Shapiro explained that reasonable accommodation applies to persons with disabilities and covers sober and group homes. The city has developed a policy for group homes to become eligible for reasonable accommodation and would require documentation to be on file to ensure that the standards for a waiver are satisfied under federal law. Mr. Shapiro went on to say that the ordinance was developed to stop any challenge or lawsuit that might arise.

Alderman Gewirtz would like agencies, especially CASPAR, to be notified and asked to provide input on the impending ordinance. Mr. Shapiro will send the notifications and a draft copy of the ordinance.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE Next: 12/31/2010 12:00 AM

(ID # 1384) - Asst. City Solicitor Submitting a Proposed Ordinance to Provide for Reasonable Accommodation in the Land Use and Zoning and Building Regulations Per the Fair Housing Laws.:

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

189600 - That the Chief Assessor Inform This Board Why the City Cannot Accept Partial Payments from Residents for Excise Tax Bills, Especially in Circumstances that Make it Impossible for Them to Pay Entirely Upfront.:

The City Treasurer was unavailable to discuss this item, therefore, it will remain in committee.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

Next: 10/12/2010 7:00 PM

189685 - That the City Solicitor Draft an Ordinance Banning Text Messaging While Driving Within the City Limits of Somerville.:

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

189961 - Licensing Commission proposing an amendment to Ordinance 2-219, to reduce the required weeks of legal advertisement to two from three, for certain liquor and entertainment licenses.:

Mr. Upton told the members that the 3 week advertising period has caused problem for applicants in the past and he noted that most cities/towns only advertise for 1 or 2 weeks. The Chamber of Commerce would be in favor of a 1 week advertising period. Committee members expressed concern that all relevant parties receive notice about applications for liquor and entertainment licenses and discussed additional methods of notification. Mr. Upton stated that the notification requirements are already in the ordinance.

Chairman Taylor's motion *that a communication be sent to the Licensing Commission requesting that notice of applications for liquor and entertainment licenses be sent to neighbors (of the establishment) when there is an expected impact on a neighborhood and that elected officials be notified of the process*, was approved.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

Next: 12/31/2010 12:00 AM