



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Wednesday - March 14, 2018, 6:30 PM
Committee Room – 2nd Floor – City Hall

AGENDA

(Posted online: 3/12/18 at 7:08 AM)

- 1. Approval of the February 14, 2018 Minutes**
- 2. 205334: Discuss** (White Jr., Ewen-Campen, Hirsch, and the Entire Board) – That the Committee on Housing and Community Development investigate the condition of affordable housing units in the City, gathering testimony and data, to determine whether there is an affordable housing crisis that constitutes a public emergency, which may inform any home rule petitions related to affordable housing.
- 3. 204984: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Scott, Mbah) – That the Director of SPCD provide data for all current affordable housing stock in the city, including section 8 vouchers, state and federal affordable housing, and inclusionary housing.
- 4. 205191: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, and the Entire Board) – That the Administration inform this Board on the annual number of eviction cases heard in Somerville District Court, the proportion for which the tenant has no legal representation, and the estimated cost of ensuring that all Somerville tenants have such representation.
- 5. 204854: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Chief Assessor report to this Board, the number of properties (residential and commercial) that have been bought and sold within a 1-year period, and the extent of improvements that were made during that period, for the past five years.
- 6. 205097: Discuss** (Hirsch, Mbah) – That this Board’s Committee on Housing and Community Development discuss a ‘Housing Hackathon’.
- 7. 204976: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen) – That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with a

detailed description of the MA Workforce Housing Initiative and explain how the city can encourage developers to take advantage of it.

8. **196368: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of SPCD submit a plan on the use of city owned properties as it relates to projected growth identified in the SomerVision Plan.
9. **204885: Discuss** (Scott) – That the City Clerk and the Director of SPCD expand abutter notices for Zoning Board of Appeal, Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission hearings to include tenants of abutting properties in addition to property owners.
10. **205098: Discuss** (Hirsch, Niedergang) – That the Administration update this Board on opportunities for expanded advertisement of the city’s tax deferral program, and other tools that may help seniors and homeowners on fixed incomes to achieve financial stability.
11. **204847: Discuss** (Mbah, Hirsch) – That the Director of SPCD update this Board on what is being done to preserve minority owned businesses in the city.
12. **204995: Discuss** (Hirsch, Scott) – That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Arts Council Director determine the feasibility of creating a mural (or another graffiti deterrent) on the back side of the Argenziano School.
13. **204884: Discuss** (Scott, and the Entire Board) – That this Board explore establishing a community-based independent Community Land Trust that can purchase property in conjunction with non-profit organizations and private citizens, and make housing permanently affordable.