



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Monday - May 3, 2021, 6:00 PM
Virtual

AGENDA

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this meeting of a City Council Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3329015959028478991>

- 1. Approval of the March 1, 2021 Minutes**
- 2. 211801: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Mayor and the Director of Health and Human Services update the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety on the Covid-19 public health emergency and the city's response (following on #209798).

Policing

- 3. 211173: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Strezo) – That the Chief of Police utilize the Department's Crime Analyst to track and document police interactions with the public in order to identify possible racial profiling.
- 4. 211599: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Scott, Mbah) – That the Chief of Police update this Council on Somerville's Restorative Justice program, including a description of what sorts of cases are referred for restorative justice and how those decisions are made.

5. **211428: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan) – That the Chief of Police appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss the policy on drug possession arrests for the past 5 years.
6. **211430: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Strezo, Ballantyne) – That the Director of the Community Outreach Help and Recovery Department be fully integrated into Police leadership decisions to ensure a behavioral health perspective is considered in all policy decisions.

Incident Reporting Transparency

7. **210194: Discuss** (Strezo) – That the Chief of Police provide weekly updates on mask citations issued and any non-compliance incidents.
8. **210366: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Clingan) – That the Police Department post its weekly crime log on social media every week.
9. **210476: Discuss** (Clingan, Scott, Davis, Mbah, Strezo) – That the Chief of Police provide to this Council the number of confirmed shootings since January 2018, including the dates, times, locations, number of rounds fired, and what or who those rounds hit.
10. **210477: Discuss** (Clingan, Scott, Davis, Strezo, Mbah) – That the Chief of Police provide to this Council the number of times and locations that shot spotter has been triggered since January 2018.
11. **210478: Discuss** (Clingan, Scott, Ballantyne, Mbah, Davis, Strezo) – That the Chief of Police utilize social media, including Twitter, to let residents know when there have been shots fired or when the Police make a firearm arrest.
12. **211179: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Communications advise the community via social media of all shootings and violent crimes that occur in Somerville. (2nd request)

Helping Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

13. **211325: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Davis) – That the Director of Health and Human Services prioritize homelessness outreach workers for upcoming COVID-19 grant funding to better address the increased demand for homeless services.
14. **210687: Discuss** (Davis, Strezo, Ballantyne, Scott) – That the Director of Health and Human Services advise this Council what services are available to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, mental illness, and addiction, and where additional funding could improve those services or enable new services.

15. **210874: Discuss** Director of Health and Human Services responding to #210687 re: current and potential services available to neighbors experiencing homelessness, mental illness, and addiction.
16. **211708: Discuss** (Davis, Strezo) – That the Director of Health and Human Services update the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, in writing and in person, on what steps have been taken and are planned to provide services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, mental illness, and addiction.
17. **211326: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Davis) – That the Director of Health and Human Services develop a plan for a warming center or engagement center to address increased homelessness in the community due to COVID-19.

Other

18. **207942: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Director of Parks and Recreation design with interested parents and caregivers a summer program to support those who have children with autism disorder.
19. **211594: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Strezo, Clingan) – That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss how much planned funding will be allocated toward trauma training initiatives for youth in the coming years.
20. **208261: Discuss** (Clingan, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Health and Human Services highlight any funding for drug treatment during the budget process.
21. **209144: Discuss** (McLaughlin) – That the Director of SPCD consider installing ADA/bicycle accessible ramps at the opposite ends of Edward Leathers Park to enhance the Neighborways bike path.
22. **208989: Discuss** (White Jr., Ballantyne) – That the Chief of Police report to this Council on any enforcement actions undertaken under Ordinance 9-97, especially with regard to disturbances of the peace in the vicinity of Tufts College.

Supervised Consumption Site Update

23. **208691: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Hirsch) – That members of the recently established Safe Injection Site Task Force appear before this Council’s Committee on Public Health and Public Safety to discuss their findings in a public forum.
24. **208692: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Hirsch) – That the Director of Health and Human Services provide the City Council with a copy of the Safe Injection Site Task

Force recommendations.

To Consider for Closing

- 25. 209978: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on contingency staffing plans in case a large number of front-line employees are unable to work due to illness or self-isolation.
- 26. 210212: Discuss** (Clingan, Strezo) – That the Director of Health and Human Services work with the appropriate state agencies to identify all state funded group and foster homes to ensure they have enough PPEs and to examine their plans to keep facilities clean.
- 27. 211220: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Strezo, Clingan, Scott, Davis) – That the Covid-19 response team update the Committee on Public Health and Safety on the Phase 2 vaccine roll-out for residents, particularly senior citizens and other vulnerable residents.
- 28. 211221: Discuss** (Strezo, Scott, Clingan, Davis) – That the Directors of Health and Human Services and the Council on Aging collaborate to bridge the digital divide for residents seeking to obtain the Covid vaccine who may not have access to the internet.
- 29. 211222: Discuss** (Mbah, Scott, Strezo, Clingan, Davis) – That the Administration help residents over 75 years of age sign up for Covid-19 vaccinations.
- 30. 211223: Discuss** (Mbah, Niedergang, Strezo, Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Ballantyne, Scott, Davis) – That the Administration include teachers on the priority list as the vaccine distribution plan is rolled out.
- 31. 210541: Discuss** (Rossetti) – That the Director of Health and Human Services report to this Council, within 7 days, the ability of the Health Department or the Administration to order Covid-19 testing of all Tufts college students living in Somerville, whether attending classes virtually or in hybrid mode.
- 32. 210606: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Rossetti) – That the Director of Health and Human Services and Tufts University provide this Council with weekly updates on the number of unique COVID-19 tests administered to Tufts undergraduate and graduate students until all students have been tested.
- 33. 211355: Discuss** (Niedergang, McLaughlin, Clingan, Ballantyne, Mbah) – That the Mayor, the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management and the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on Public School reopening plans.
- 34. 211371: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Health and Human Services use the attached tool to help small businesses and schools adapt to the evolving science around

Covid-19 by sharing current data, identifying risks, and defining contingencies.

- 35. 205829: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services and other enforcing departments report to this Board on enforcing business signage laws, especially for alcohol, tobacco or marijuana advertisements.