



**City of Somerville,
Massachusetts**
**Public Health and Public Safety
Committee**
Meeting Minutes Dispositions

Monday, January 23, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual

Others present: Charles Breen – Chief Fire Engineer, Justin Kates – Director of Emergency Management, Patricia Contente – Director of Community Outreach, Karin Carroll – Director of Health and Human Services, Nick Antanavica – Superintendent of Inspectional Services, Ellen Shachter – Director of Housing Stability, Neha Singh – Legislative Liaison, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place virtually via GoToWebinar and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Kelly and adjourned at 7:13 PM on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors McLaughlin, Davis and Kelly), none against and none absent.

Roll Call

Present: City Councilor At Large Charlotte Kelly, Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis and Matthew McLaughlin

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022. [23-0112](#)

Approved

Aye: City Councilor At Large Kelly, Ward Six City Councilor Davis and Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin

COVID

2. That the Director of Health and Human Services share with this Council any plans to encourage or require indoor masking in light of the recent COVID-19 surge. [23-0094](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo and Councilor Scott

Recommended to be marked work completed

3. That the Director of Health and Human Services report to this Council on COVID and flu vaccination clinics and strategies to increase opportunities for residents to access vaccines. [22-1767](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld

Recommended to be marked work completed

4. That the Board of Health deliver its annual report to this City Council in January, in compliance with Section 6-20 of the Code of Ordinances, with emphasis on the work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. [23-0081](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be marked work completed

Emergency Response

5. That the Mayor designate a central point of contact for providing on-site response for mass displacement events such as fires and floods, and coordinating efforts to assist impacted residents. [22-1934](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly

Recommended to be marked work completed

6. That the Director of Emergency Management, the Director of the Office of Housing Stability, the Director of Health and Human Services, the Chief Fire Engineer, and other relevant staff, discuss with this Council the resources and support services provided to residents impacted by a disaster or crisis such as fire or flood. [22-1933](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly

Recommended to be marked work completed

7. That the Chief Fire Engineer inform the appropriate Ward Councilor and Councilors-at-Large, as soon as safely practicable, when a major fire has occurred in their Ward, including the number of residents impacted. [22-1932](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr., City Council Organizational Meeting, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Strezio and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

Housing

8. That the Director of Housing and the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council regarding repeated requests to provide shelter to homeless residents. [22-1739](#)

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin

Recommended to be marked work completed

9. That the Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) team work in [22-1359](#)

conjunction with the Homeless Coalition to address homelessness in East Somerville open spaces.

Sponsors: Councilor McLaughlin

Recommended to be marked work completed

10. That the ARPA Specialist update this Council on the City's plans to use ARPA funding to address chronic homelessness. [22-1757](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Kelly and Councilor Davis

Recommended to be marked work completed

11. That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a written report on the number of calls for service related to un-housed individuals, the nature of those calls, and the number directed toward or responded to in collaboration with the Somerville Homeless Coalition. [22-1307](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be marked work completed

12. That the Chief of Police work with the Office of Housing Stability to submit a written report answering the questions contained within. [22-1761](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be marked work completed

13. That the Chief of Police deliver to this Council, a written report of the Police Department's protocol for addressing encampments of un-housed individuals, including any resources that are offered, and whether those individuals are transported and to where. [22-1055](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

Safety

14. That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to increase reliability and frequency of enforcement of public health violations in the City. [22-0058](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Kelly and Councilor Scott

Recommended to be marked work completed

15. That the Director of Inspectional Services report on the status of the enforcement of Section 11-111 of the Code of Ordinances, regarding Registration and maintenance of vacant property. [22-1445](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson

Recommended to be marked work completed

16. That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a list of confirmed shootings between April 2018 and April 2022. [22-0959](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Clingan, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Gomez Mouakad

Recommended to be marked work completed

Housekeeping

17. That the Director of Health and Human Services and the Superintendent of Water and Sewer update this Council on the feasibility of partnering with a vendor to conduct COVID-19 wastewater testing. [22-2123](#)

Sponsors: Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr.

Recommended to be marked work completed