



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2025

7:00 PM

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the City Council's minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Present:** Ward One City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin
 Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis
 City Councilor At Large Jake Wilson
 Ward Five City Councilor Naima Sait
 City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah
 City Councilor At Large Willie Burnley Jr.
 Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan
 City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo
 Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld
 Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen
- Absent:** Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ward Seven City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld.
 The City Council entered recess at 8:00 PM and returned at 8:11 PM.
 The City Council entered recess at 9:17 PM and returned at 9:26 PM.

1.1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 (ID # [25-0264](#))

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

1.2. Remembrances Remembrances.
 (ID # [25-0265](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

1.3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2025.
 (ID # [25-0266](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

1.4. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 9, 2025.
 (ID # [25-0267](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

2. CITATIONS

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Order (ID # [25-0176](#)) By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of SomerStat and the Director of the Council on Aging appear before this Council's Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations to discuss the results of the recent Senior Survey.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee
- 4.2. Withdrawn (ID # [25-0180](#)) Withdrawn.
- RESULT:** WITHDRAWN
- 4.3. Withdrawn (ID # [25-0181](#)) Withdrawn.
- RESULT:** WITHDRAWN
- 4.4. Communication (ID # [25-0175](#)) By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Pineda Neufeld
Conveying that the Tufts Shuttle, including the Saturday Grocery Store Shuttle Bus, is free for any Somerville resident to ride.
- Councilor Strezo reported that she received confirmation that this service is available to Somerville residents and that shuttles run on continuous loops to various locations in Somerville and Medford.
- RESULT:** PLACED ON FILE
- 4.5. Communication (ID # [25-0205](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen
Conveying an update on the confirmation process for new hires in civil service positions.
- Councilor Ewen-Campen explained the powers granted to the City Council for civil service hires and promotions. He outlined the procedure currently employed for interviewing new hire candidates and candidates for promotion, explaining that for new hires, the Council is prohibited from considering any personal information prior to the candidates medical exam, thus he believes that when positions are budgeted for and sent to the Council for approval, new hires should not be referred to the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel matters since it's not a good use of the committee's time. The exception would be if an item is referred to

that committee by any councilor. His intention is to apply this procedure for police and fire positions and he requested that when new hires are submitted for approval, the signature lists be provided as well.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 4.6. Order
(ID # [25-0214](#))

By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Constituent Services submit in writing, the protocol for proper handling of downed wires.

Councilor Mbah spoke about the advice he received from 311 regarding a downed wire, which he said highlights the need for a protocol.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

- 4.7. Order
(ID # [25-0216](#))

By Councilor Mbah and Councilor Wilson

That the Director of Inspectional Services conduct proactive inspections in high-traffic areas, including school zones, senior housing areas, and commercial corridors, during and after winter storms to ensure compliance with snow and ice removal regulations.

Councilor Mbah said he observed several sidewalks posing dangerous conditions and feels that stronger enforcement of the city's ordinance is needed. Councilor Clingan noted that this was discussed at the recent Public Utilities and Public Works Committee meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 4.8. Communication
(ID # [25-0217](#))

By Councilor Mbah

Conveying a report on the meeting of the Job Creation and Retention Trust.

Councilor Mbah reported on the February 4 meeting and noted that due to a lack of revenue, some projects will not be able to continue this fiscal year, however there is some unspent funding that is being considered to continue 1 or 2 projects. If the Trust is able to secure \$100,000 in funding, then work could continue into 2026.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 4.9. Order
(ID # [25-0229](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Wilson

That the Commissioner of Public Works work with relevant city staff to plan citywide community cleanup days in each ward.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld noted that the last city-wide cleanup day was in 2021 and constituents have expressed a desire to bring it back. Councilor Wilson expressed his desire to see this implemented by this spring.

Councilor Strezio commented that she believes that Comcast sponsored this

event in the past and asked if any corporate sponsorships might be available and Councilor Clingan stated that he thought that Health and Human Services or Open Space coordinated the event in the past.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

4.10. Order
(ID # [25-0230](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Health and Human Services and the Chief of Police consider installing emergency call boxes in key city locations, including Davis Square.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

4.11. Order
(ID # [25-0231](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Mobility prioritize North Street for speed humps and other traffic calming measures.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Traffic and Parking Committee

4.12. Order
(ID # [25-0232](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Economic Development begin the process for developing a Teele Square commercial area plan.

Councilor Pineda Neufeld noted that the square has changed in the past few years and she would like to have a plan in place for its future.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

4.13. Order
(ID # [25-0233](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Commissioner of Public Works work with relevant city staff to develop a prioritization and tracking system of 311 requests to maintain optimal school building conditions and proactively address potential concerns.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.14. Order
(ID # [25-0234](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management develop a Swing Space plan to accommodate Somerville Public Schools students to mitigate disruption to students, families, and staff while a school building is unavailable or during construction.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.15. Order
(ID # [25-0235](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide an update on the conversion of the former science lab in Room 208 at the Arthur D. Healey School, to small group learning classrooms.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.16. Order
(ID # [25-0236](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss the metrics for measuring the effectiveness of rodent mitigation strategies in Somerville Public School buildings.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.17. Order
(ID # [25-0237](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management discuss with the City Council and School Committee, the development of the FY 2026 project plan and budget in accordance with the adopted Capital Investment Plan.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.18. Order
(ID # [25-0238](#))

By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Commissioner of Public Works complete installation of any remaining lockdown blinds needed for safety at Somerville High School.

RESULT: **APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION**
FOLLOWUP: School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee

4.19. Order
(ID # [25-0241](#))

By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Capital Projects update this Council on the potential plan to use the Homan's site for installation of a stormwater retention tank.

Councilor Clingan asked if a retention tank is going there or not and he wants to provide the opportunity for the community to get some answers. Councilor Wilson commented that this question is holding up the future development of Gilman Square.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Public Utilities and Public Works Committee

4.20. Order
(ID # [25-0242](#))

By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Wilson
That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and
Community Development update this Council on the current status of the
implementation of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan.

Councilor Clingan said the plans exist and wonders if they'll be put into
place. He stated that he wants to keep the light shining on Gilman Square to
force a public conversation.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

4.21. Order
(ID # [25-0239](#))

By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Inspectional Services provide the Ward 4 City
Councilor with the details of all tickets issued for failure to remove snow
between January 1 and February 12, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED

4.22. Resolution
(ID # [25-0240](#))

By Councilor Clingan
That the Administration create a detailed list of duties for commission and
committee liaisons, including specific duties as they relate to the respective
body.

Councilor Clingan commented that missing from the mayor's new procedure
for commissions and committees was the duties of the liaisons and he feels
that having this in print would be helpful to commission and committee
members.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters
Committee

4.23. Order
(ID # [25-0243](#))

By Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Communications and Community Engagement update
this Council on efforts to educate the public about preventing conditions
conducive to growth of the rodent population.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Rodent Issues Special Committee

- 4.24. Order
(ID # [25-0244](#))
- By Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Inspectional Services update this Council on efforts around enforcement of rodent-related ordinances, including the number of complaints, inspections, warnings, and fines issued for vegetation and trash violations.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Rodent Issues Special Committee
- 4.25. Order
(ID # [25-0245](#))
- By Councilor Wilson
That the Environmental Health Manager update this Council on rodent activity data and rodent mitigation efforts, including any novel approaches under consideration or being utilized.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Rodent Issues Special Committee
- 4.26. Order
(ID # [25-0246](#))
- By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Director of Planning, Preservation and Zoning discuss with this Council, Type IV heavy timber construction now permitted in the 10th edition of Massachusetts State Building Code 780 and potential impacts on inspections, development, and the Zoning Ordinance.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- 4.27. Order
(ID # [25-0247](#))
- By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Economic Development report on the economic impact to small businesses in Somerville as a result of recent federal immigration policy changes.
- Councilor McLaughlin observed a noticeable difference in the city, with fewer people coming out in public due to concerns about immigration issues. This trend is negatively impacting local businesses, leading to a reduction in tax revenue. While some may support President Trump's policies, this situation specifically addresses the adverse effects on the city and he urged residents to patronize local businesses. He sponsored business owner Daniel Mahorkis to speak. Mr. Mahorkis noted that at a recent monthly business meeting in East Somerville, there was a discussion about the impact of immigration issues on businesses. He acknowledged the large immigrant community in East Somerville and encouraged the city to find creative ways to incentivize the public to patronize to local businesses. Councilor Strezo stated that she would request that staff from the Economic Development Department be prepared to address this issue when it is brought up in committee and she extended an invitation to Mr. Mahorkis to

participate as well.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Housing and Community Development Committee

4.28. Order
(ID # [25-0248](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson

That the Chief of Police update this Council on the annual reporting of Immigration Customs and Enforcement detentions in Somerville, as outlined in the Welcoming City Ordinance.

Councilor McLaughlin spoke about a recent news article regarding the arrest of a Turkish immigrant saying that the person was not a Somerville resident nor was he arrested in Somerville. He commented about a misconception of the city's Welcoming City Ordinance and said that the ordinance is very specific about what can and can't be done. He commented that this is a constitutional issue since a U. S. President cannot tell local authorities what to do regarding immigration. Councilor Wilson reported that he confirmed with Somerville Police that the city was not involved in this incident.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Public Health and Public Safety Committee

4.29. Resolution
(ID # [25-0249](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Executive Director of the Welcome Project update the City Council on the status of the Somerville Worker's Center.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [24-1659](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$60,000 grant with no new match required, from Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to the Police Department for traffic safety enforcement.

This item was discussed with item #24-0259.

Police Sergeant Michael McCarey explained how the funds will be used to interact with motorists and pedestrians to promote the safe and orderly movement of vehicles. He noted that non-enforcement safety engagement will be applied where indicated.

Councilor Burnley spoke about pedestrian and bike safety enforcement with officers using discretion on enforcement of the Idaho stop and Sergeant McCarey explained that some cyclists run red lights, putting people at risk, and then try to hide behind the Idaho stop when confronted by police. He

told the Council that those who show respect to pedestrians and other traffic will be given full consideration. Councilor Wilson noted that residents are calling for more enforcement.

RESULT: APPROVED

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0177](#)) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on February 5, 2025.

Councilor Ewen-Campen summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee recommended approval of 3 appointments to the Human Rights Commission and noted that there are still 5 vacancies on that commission. He also briefly explained the new procedure for filling positions.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1696](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Lauren Chapman to the Human Rights Commission.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1698](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Brian Sokol to the Human Rights Commission.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [24-1699](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jenny Bonham Carter to the Human Rights Commission.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.A.5. Mayor's Communication (ID # [24-1726](#)) Conveying changes to the reappointment policy for boards, commissions and committees.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B. EQUITY, GENDER, FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0171](#)) Report of the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations, meeting on February 3, 2025.

Councilor Strezo summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee discussed the availability and accessibility of free menstrual products in all city-owned bathrooms, replacing various veterans' memorials, delayed USPS mail delivery, providing transportation services for seniors for medical appointments and grocery shopping, providing assistance to residents to enhance food security and the establishment of a position to prevent potential barriers to seniors growing older within Somerville and to amplify their voices in city decision making.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.B.2. Order
(ID # [24-0788](#))

By Councilor Strezo
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.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B.3. Resolution
(ID # [24-1178](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo, Councilor Wilson and Councilor Sait
That the Administration hire a liaison dedicated to working with senior residents in order to amplify their voices in city decision making.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B.4. Order
(ID # [25-0039](#))

By Councilor Strezo
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.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B.5. Resolution
(ID # [25-0040](#))

By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Mbah
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.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.B.6. Order
(ID # [25-0041](#))

By Councilor Strezo
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.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.B.7. Order
(ID # [25-0042](#))
- By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Mbah and Councilor McLaughlin
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.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.B.8. Order
(ID # [25-0043](#))
- By Councilor Strezo and Councilor Mbah
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.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.B.9. Resolution
(ID # [25-0062](#))
- By 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
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.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.C. FINANCE COMMITTEE
- 6.C.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-0166](#))
- Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on January 30, 2025.
- Councilor Wilson summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that 21 residents spoke on a variety of topics at the public hearing for the FY26 budget priorities. The only other item on the agenda, and discussed at the meeting, was the compensation study for non union positions and elected officials.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.C.2. Mayor's
Communication
(ID # [25-0115](#))
- Conveying an update on the Non-Union Employee Classification and Compensation Study.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.C.3. Order
(ID # [25-0147](#))
- By Councilor Wilson
That this City Council hold a public hearing in the Committee on Finance on the community's Fiscal Year 2026 budget priorities.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED6.D. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on February 11, 2025.
(ID # [25-0207](#))

Councilor Wilson summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee recommended for approval 9 appropriations, 3 grant acceptances/expenditures, payment of 2 prior year invoices, 1 transfer of funds, and 4-time only contract extensions. The committee also received an update on the FY 2025 quarterly spending, discussed the decision to stop the annual employee holiday breakfast at the Department of Public Works building, support staff for councilors, and received an update on plans for the Founders Memorial Skating Rink.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$20,900 from the Energy Stabilization Fund to add attic insulation to the Recreation Department at 16 Walnut Street.
(ID # [24-1712](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilson, Ward Five City Councilor Sait, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Four City Councilor Clingan, City Councilor At Large Strezo, Ward Seven City Councilor Pineda Neufeld, and Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen

ABSENT: Ward One City Councilor McLaughlin, Ward Two City Councilor Scott, and City Councilor At Large Burnley Jr.

- 6.D.3. Officer's Communication City Council Finance Analyst conveying FY 2025 second quarter spending update.
(ID # [25-0023](#))

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.D.4. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$100,000 from Water Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to satisfy a court judgment.
(ID # [25-0047](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.5. Mayor's Request Requesting the appropriation of \$365,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund to the Somerville Community Land Trust for restoration of 12 Pleasant Avenue.
(ID # [25-0049](#))

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0051](#)) Requesting the transfer of \$346,492 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Undesignated Fund Balance to the CPA Community Housing Reserve.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0053](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,475,428 from the Community Preservation Act Affordable Housing Reserve to the Affordable Housing Trust.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0055](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$172,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Historic Preservation Reserve to the Elizabeth Peabody House for exterior restoration of 277 Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0056](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Open Space Reserve for the installation of water fountains at Nunziato Park.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0057](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$300,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Fund to the CPA Open Space Land Acquisition Fund.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0058](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$114,259 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Historic Preservation Reserve to the Somerville Museum for preservation of artifacts in its collection.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0059](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$18,500 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Historic Preservation Reserve for a condition assessment of the Veterans Cemetery and other historic monuments.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.13. Resolution (ID # [25-0060](#)) By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Davis, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Sait That the Administration discuss the decision to stop the annual employee holiday breakfast at the Department of Public Works building.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.D.14.Order
(ID # [25-0068](#))

By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Scott
That the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on short- and long-term plans for the Founders Memorial Skating Rink.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.D.15.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0078](#))

Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension until 12/31/2025 for Crowley Cottrell LLC to complete additional services for re-design and construction administrations fees.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.16.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0079](#))

Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,400 using available funds in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Economic Development Division account for 9 Aldersey Street appraisal report.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.17.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0096](#))

Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of three years for Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for Poplar Street Pump Station Design Services.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.18.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0097](#))

Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of three years for PMA LLC for owners project manager services on the Poplar Street Pump Station project.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.19.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0098](#))

Requesting approval of a time-only contract extension of three years for MWH Contractors Inc. for construction manager at risk services on the Poplar Street Pump Station project.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.D.20.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0099](#))

Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$2,500,000 grant that requires a 20% match, from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Infrastructure and Asset Management Engineering Division for the Poplar Street Pump Station.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 6.D.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0100](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$2,400,000 grant with no new match required, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development for infrastructure and open space improvements on the Clarendon Phase II project.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.D.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0102](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$33,550 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for the purchase of firefighter safety equipment.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.D.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0103](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$486 using available funds in the City Clerk Advertising account for legal hearing notices.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.E. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE
- 6.E.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0162](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on January 28, 2025.
- Councilor Davis summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee received an update on improvements to the city's wage theft ordinance, received a presentation on a legislative drafting manual, briefly discussed the city's Language Access Ordinance, and had a conversation about what else can be done to strengthen protections of the city's Welcoming City Ordinance.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.E.2. Resolution (ID # [24-1603](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Mbah That the Administration work to establish a Language Access Ordinance to codify constituents' right to timely, meaningful, and culturally competent language access services.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.E.3. Resolution (ID # [24-1604](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson Reaffirming Somerville's commitment as a Sanctuary and Trust Act City for justice, equity, and inclusion.
- AMENDMENT:**
WHEREAS, The City of Somerville has a proud, longstanding history of

welcoming and supporting generations of immigrants, dating back to its original Sanctuary City declaration in 1987, reaffirmed in 2016 and 2019, and has continually upheld values of equity, inclusion, and support for all community members; and

WHEREAS, The national political climate remains increasingly hostile toward immigrants and refugees, and the recent return of the former President to the White House brings heightened risks for immigrant communities across the country, including in Somerville; and

WHEREAS, Somerville’s guiding document, SomerVision 2040, states that “putting equity at the core of our policies is how we live up to our ideals and ensure our community remains safe, vibrant, and supportive of all,” a vision that we uphold with a commitment to protecting our immigrant neighbors and fostering an inclusive environment for everyone; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Somerville City Council hereby reaffirms its commitment as a Sanctuary and Trust Act City, vowing to protect the safety, dignity, and rights of immigrants, migrants, asylum seekers, asylees, and refugees residing in Somerville; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville pledges continued support and funding for the Office of Immigrant Affairs, empowering it to advocate for and support immigrants, provide resources, and foster a welcoming environment in our community; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville commits to maintaining and funding the Immigrant Legal Services Stabilization Fund to provide legal representation to residents facing deportation or removal, and to secure legal guidance through this fund as needed for our constituents; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That no city department, including the Somerville Police Department and Somerville Public Schools, will apply for or accept federal funds that require gathering or sharing information regarding the national origin, immigration, or citizenship status of employees, students, or residents for the purpose of targeting or deportation; Somerville reaffirms its ~~Trust—Act—Welcoming~~ **Community** Ordinance commitment to non-cooperation with federal immigration enforcement on these matters; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That all city services, benefits, and programs shall remain

accessible to all, irrespective of any person's national origin, citizenship, or immigration status, and that the city will continue providing timely and culturally competent language access services to ensure inclusivity across all departments; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That city employees will receive training and resources to uphold equal access to city facilities, services, and programming, building a supportive environment for all residents; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville will partner with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to secure justice for victims of hate crimes, and with local organizations to support families affected by federal immigration policies, including providing kinship placements for children where appropriate; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the city will strongly advocate for schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses to be recognized as "sensitive locations," safe from federal immigration enforcement actions, to ensure the fair and compassionate administration of justice; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Somerville Police Department reaffirms its commitment to not cooperate with external law enforcement agencies on matters related to immigration detainment as set forth in the City of Somerville's Ordinance No. ~~2014-07~~ 2019-14, ~~Trust Act~~ Welcoming Community Ordinance; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Mayor of Somerville will communicate the city's Sanctuary City principles and available resources to all city departments, boards, commissions, and community organizations working with immigrant populations; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That Somerville also invites neighboring cities in Massachusetts to reaffirm their commitment to serving and protecting their immigrant communities, joining in solidarity to safeguard residents' rights and safety; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That if any section of this resolution is declared contrary to federal or state law, the remaining provisions shall remain intact and enforceable to the fullest extent possible; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That regardless of external pressures or challenges faced by sanctuary cities, Somerville remains committed to its values of inclusion, equity, and justice, and will not waver in supporting our immigrant neighbors, who

are integral to the strength and diversity of our community.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

6.E.4. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-0022](#))

City Council Legislative and Policy Analyst conveying the City Clerk's Office Manual on Legislative Drafting.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F. PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

6.F.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-0206](#))

Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works, meeting on February 10, 2025.

Councilor Clingan summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee discussed the process for addressing uncleared/unsalted sidewalks after a snowfall, the use of beet juice for treating roadways after a snow or ice event, painting a mural at 165 Broadway, and clutter and maintenance issues at 165 Broadway.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.F.2. Order
(ID # [25-0035](#))

By Councilor Strezio

That the Director of Inspectional Services and the Commissioner of Public Works discuss how uncleared and/or unsalted sidewalks and driveways are addressed and fined after it snows, including how much staff it takes to address community reports of uncleared private property.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F.3. Order
(ID # [25-0090](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of the Arts Council work with Teen Empowerment and other related city agencies to develop youth-led murals within the walls of 165 Broadway.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.F.4. Order
(ID # [25-0091](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Commissioner of Public Works clear the second floor of 165 Broadway of unused city materials to expand building uses for Teen Empowerment.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.F.5. Order (ID # [25-0092](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address maintenance issues within 165 Broadway.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.F.6. Order (ID # [25-0093](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works update this Council on the use of beet juice to address ice and snow during winter storms.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G. SCHOOL BUILDING FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- 6.G.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0193](#)) Report of the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance, meeting jointly with the School Committee's School Buildings Facilities and Maintenance Committee on February 6, 2025.
- Councilor Davis summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee received updates on the status of the Massachusetts School Building Authority process for the Winter Hill and Brown Schools and on the timeline for constructing a new school building. Updates were also provided on the creation of a production kitchen and for the installation of a new third floor classroom at the Argenziano School. The failure of the boiler at the Brown School and the short- and long-term plans to address heating for that building were also discussed. Finally, the committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the recent School Building Community Feedback Survey.
- RESULT: APPROVED**
- 6.G.2. Order (ID # [24-1594](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide a timeline and update for installation of a new classroom on the third-floor atrium at the Argenziano School.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.3. Order (ID # [24-1595](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management provide a timeline and update on the creation of a production kitchen at the Argenziano School.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.G.4. Order (ID # [25-0063](#)) By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Sait
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management update this Council on the timeline for constructing a new school building.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.5. Order
(ID # [25-0071](#))

By Councilor Davis, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait and Councilor Burnley Jr.

That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Engineering report to this Council on the failure of the boiler at the Brown School and the short- and long-term plans to address heating for the building.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.6. Order
(ID # [25-0094](#))

By Councilor McLaughlin

That the Director of Parking allow public use of school parking lots during snow storms.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.G.7. Resolution
(ID # [25-0157](#))

By Councilor Davis and Councilor Strezo

That the Administration immediately withdraw the School Building Community Feedback Survey, released this morning, regarding the replacement of the Winter Hill and, potentially, Brown School.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

6.H. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

6.H.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0160](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on January 27, 2025.

Councilor Sait summarized the actions taken by the committee and reported that the committee discussed the design of the bike lane entrance at Washington Street and Webster Avenue that is causing safety issues for cyclists, changing pedestrian light signaling at the intersection of Broadway and School Street, ways to streamline the process for parking permits for in-home elder care and health providers, pedestrianizing Elm Street for select hours, traffic calming measures on Heath Street, and the consistent running of red lights and driver misuse of the Broadway bus lanes, including near the Temple Street and Broadway intersection.

RESULT: APPROVED

6.H.2. Resolution
(ID # [24-1685](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Davis

That the Administration update this Council on the feasibility of pedestrianizing Elm Street for select hours, including identified obstacles and a potential timeline for implementation.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

- 6.H.3. Order
(ID # [24-1735](#))
- By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering create an on-demand, dedicated pedestrian phase for the traffic signals at the intersection of Broadway and School Street, with NO TURN ON RED signage for both eastbound Broadway traffic and northbound School Street traffic.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.H.4. Order
(ID # [24-1736](#))
- By Councilor Scott, Councilor Ewen-Campen and Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Mobility and the Director of Engineering appear before this Council to discuss the preparation of a change order to revert to the design of the bike lane entrance at Washington Street and Webster Avenue to the original 100% plans.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.H.5. Order
(ID # [25-0034](#))
- By Councilor Strezo, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Sait
That the Chief of Police, the Director of Parking and the Director of Mobility discuss the consistent running of red lights during the weekday rush hour and repeated driver misuse of the Broadway bus lanes, including near the Temple Street and Broadway intersection.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 6.H.6. Order
(ID # [25-0061](#))
- By Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility install DRIVE SLOW - CHILDREN AT PLAY signs on Heath Street, between Edgar Avenue and Fenwick Street.
- RESULT: WORK COMPLETED**
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**
- 7.1. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0213](#))
- Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to prevent landlords from passing realtor's fees on to tenants.
- RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 7.2. Withdrawn
(ID # [25-0204](#))
- Withdrawn.
- RESULT: WITHDRAWN**
- 7.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0128](#))
- Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 6, 9, and 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to establish a new Research & Development zoning district.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0129](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 2, 3-6, and 9 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise the regulations for arts and creative enterprise, office, and residential uses.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0131](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Articles 8 and 12 of the Zoning Ordinance to establish a new Arts & Innovation sub-area of the Master Planned Development Overlay District.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0196](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$1,472,992 from the Salary Contingency account to various departmental Personal Services accounts to fund a collective bargaining settlement with the Somerville Municipal Employees Union, Unit B.

This item was discussed with item #25-0179.

Mayor Ballantyne reported that the contract was ratified by the union, and she explained that it provides more than just an increase in salaries. The Mayor said that a wage compensation study was undertaken, analyzing 90 positions, to evaluate and correct wage inequities due to gender, class, age, industry bias and she stressed that all workers are valued and must be fairly compensated. This 3-year contract goes well beyond a cost-of-living adjustment and is structured to pay based on work performed and achieves equity. The agreement includes salary adjustments and higher starting salaries along with a boost in benefits and vacation time. Mayor Ballantyne stated that the contract is about fairness, addressing biases and fixing a system that needed fixing. She noted that contracts for units A and D are still being negotiated.

Union President Ed Halloran thanked the Mayor, the City Council and the negotiating team for their support and said that they are starting to see positions being filled. He also said that union workers want to make sure that the city's residents get the services they need.

Councilor Wilson moved for reconsideration. Reconsideration failed.

RESULT: **APPROVED**

- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0170](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$500,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Open Space Reserve for the renovation of Quincy Street Park.

RESULT: **REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0104](#)) Requesting approval of an Intermunicipal Agreement between the City of Somerville, City of Cambridge, Cambridge Health Alliance, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council, for the establishment and operation of the Somerville-Cambridge Public Health Collaborative.

The Council was informed that the prior agreement expired and that this item is to renew the partnership.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0174](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$2,500,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Executive Office of Economic Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Economic Development Division for the 299 Broadway redevelopment project.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0173](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$1,000,000 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Economic Development Division for 14-16 Sewall Street acquisition.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0158](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$54,400 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for the Local Cultural Council grant program.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0159](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an \$18,300 grant with no new match required, from the Mass Cultural Council to the Arts Council for unrestricted operating support.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0258](#)) Requesting the use of available funds in the Water Enterprise Fund Wages account in the amount of \$14,798.95 to fund a Utility Billing Manager position.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee

- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0260](#)) Requesting the use of available funds in the Water Enterprise Fund Wages account in the amount of \$13,928.44 to fund a new Service Operations Manager position.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0169](#)) Requesting the use of available funds in the Water Enterprise Fund Wages account in the amount of \$1,569.10 to fund a Billing Analyst position.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0169](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,312.50 using available funds in the Department of Racial and Social Justice Translation Services Account for Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Finance Committee

- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0212](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Gyslerna Pierre to the position of Police Officer.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0215](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Kristopher Taylor to the position of Police Officer.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0218](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Thomas Bellini to the position of Fire Captain.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0219](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Andrew Tkaczuk to the position of Fire Lieutenant.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION**FOLLOWUP:** Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee

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| 7.21. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0220) | Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Christopher Galvin to the position of Fire Lieutenant.
RESULT: <u>REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION</u>
FOLLOWUP: Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters Committee |
| 7.22. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0221) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Henry Lima to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.23. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0222) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Christopher Carvalho to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.24. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0223) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Brandon Coco to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.25. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0224) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Rory Gallivan to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.26. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0225) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jake Hardy to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.27. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0226) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Todd Headley to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.28. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0227) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Gavin Tierney to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
| 7.29. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0228) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Matthew White to the position of Firefighter.
RESULT: <u>LAID ON THE TABLE</u> |
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- 7.30. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0211](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Niki Aurora to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 7.31. Mayor's Communication (ID # [25-0179](#)) Conveying a forthcoming appropriation request from the Salary Contingency Account to various city departments to fund the costs of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Somerville Municipal Employees Union, Unit B.
This item was discussed with item #25-0196.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 7.32. Mayor's Communication (ID # [25-0192](#)) Conveying an update on a potential shift in the art studio ecosystem in Somerville.
Mayor Ballantyne provided an update stating that the pathway to ownership can be beneficial and that the city is in a unique position to assist the artist community, explaining that the building at 57 Central Street, which houses an art studio, is for sale and that the city is working with the current owner and a potential buyer to effectuate a sale. She noted that there is a funding gap that the city could close to collectively preserve the building and that efforts are being made to seek philanthropic contributions and grants, adding that the city may look to its funding sources for this purpose. Councilor Ewen-Campen expressed his desire to preserve the building and praised the building owners for collaborating with the city to maintain the building as an artist site. He introduced several speakers. Jack Gruman thanked the Mayor, Boston Arts and Business Council, city staff, Art Stays Here, and the building owners for their efforts and mentioned the importance of preserving cultural spaces to keep artists coming into the city. Lena Varnka, an artist and musician, expressed gratitude for the affordable space at this building. Andrea Belieu, an artist and writer, spoke about being part of a community of writers, musicians, and artists and Joe Bergio, a member of the Arts Council Board, was pleased to see the community's engagement at the building.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS**
- 8.1. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0165](#)) City Solicitor conveying the response to #25-0105, Laura Ortiz's Open Meeting Law complaint of January 11, 2025.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.2. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0210](#)) Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development conveying the traffic mitigation commitment for 501 Mystic Valley Parkway.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.3. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0191](#)) Somerville Redevelopment Authority conveying the 2024 Annual Report.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.4. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0259](#)) Chief of Police conveying the Municipal Road Safety Grant application.

This item was discussed with item #24-1659.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.5. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0261](#)) Director of Human Resources conveying the Non-Union Compensation Study.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 8.6. Officer's Communication (ID # [25-0263](#)) Director of Economic Development and Director of the Arts Council conveying the draft Armory Master Plan.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [25-0182](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Boston Pipe Lining Company LLC.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.2. License (ID # [25-0183](#)) New Drainlayer's License, Mitchell Associates Construction Corporation.

RESULT: APPROVED

- 9.3. License (ID # [25-0184](#)) New Garage License, Assembly Square Auto Sales, 37 Mystic Avenue, 1 vehicle inside, 18 vehicles outside for washing vehicles and storing unregistered vehicles, 7 days a week: 8am-8pm.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION

FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

- 9.4. License (ID # [25-0185](#)) Renewing Open Air Vendor License, The Somerville Flea, Buena Vista parking lot.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.5. License (ID # [25-0186](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Automotive Transport Service Inc, 40 Joy Street.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.6. License (ID # [25-0188](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pat's Enterprises, Inc., 308 McGrath Highway.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.7. License (ID # [25-0187](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pat's Enterprises, Inc., 182 Washington Street.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.8. License (ID # [25-0189](#)) Renewing Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Pearl Street Auto Sales, 182 Pearl Street.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.9. Public Event (ID # [25-0190](#)) Communications and Community Engagement Department applying for a Public Event License for Civic Day on April 5 from 9am to 5pm.
RESULT: APPROVED
- 9.10. Public Communication (ID # [25-0200](#)) 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l and 3.2.12m.
RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee
- p9.11. Public Communication (ID # [25-0195](#)) Donal Waide submitting comments re: Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
RESULT: PLACED ON FILE
- 9.12. Public Communication (ID # [25-0197](#)) Jim Bossi submitting comments re: Tufts dorm.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.13. Public Communication (ID # [25-0198](#))
- Nine residents submitting comments re: item #25-0147, Fiscal Year 2026 budget priorities.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.14. Public Communication (ID # [25-0199](#))
- David Liang submitting comments re: Chinese Communist Party.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.15. Public Communication (ID # [25-0201](#))
- Angela DiTucci submitting comments re: bike infrastructure.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.16. Public Communication (ID # [25-0202](#))
- Shim and Lea Berkovits submitting comments re: ceasefire.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

- 9.17. Public Communication (ID # [25-0203](#))
- Bill Roche submitting comments re: PJ Motorcars.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [25-0275](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this City Council which school buildings have free menstrual product dispensers, how many dispensers are in each building, and how frequently they are restocked.

RESULT: APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee

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- 10.2. Order
(ID # [25-0276](#))
- By Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this City Council the barriers to placing menstrual product dispensers in each school building and the projected date for each school building to have them installed.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations Committee
- 10.3. Order
(ID # [25-0251](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Racial and Social Justice provide an update on the citywide disparity study, including when the report will be made available to the public.
- Councilor Burnley reported that the report was due during the summer of 2024 and he would like to see some progress on this matter.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 10.4. Order
(ID # [25-0252](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the City Auditor provide in writing to this Council, the revenue generated by the short-term rental tax and an estimate of how much additional revenue would be generated if a 3% community impact fee was adopted.
- Councilor Burnley noted that this was a recommendation by the Creative Displacement Task Force and said that this would be possible for the city to adopt if the applicable ordinance is rewritten.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 10.5. Order
(ID # [25-0254](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Chief of Police present to this Council the financial implications of the Public Safety for All recommendations, specifically the costs to fund additional officers, acquire and utilize body cameras, and implement a co-response model.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
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- 10.6. Order
(ID # [25-0255](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the City Solicitor provide an assessment of whether a trust could be created for funds from a short-term rental program, half of which would be allocated for grants to local artists for beautification projects, as proposed by the Creative Displacement Task Force.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Finance Committee
- 10.7. Order
(ID # [25-0256](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the City Solicitor discuss with this Council whether elements of Boston's proposed Ordinance for Road Safety and Accountability for Delivery Providers could be used to disincentivize mopeds on the community path.
- Councilor Burnley commented that an ordinance in Boston addresses mopeds in crowded spaces through insurance and registration regulations. He stated that mopeds are hazardous to users of the community path.
- RESULT:** APPROVED AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee
- 10.8. Resolution
(ID # [25-0253](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That this Council consider including a Plain Language section within the Language Access Ordinance.
- Councilor Burnley commented that the City of Cambridge has a guide on this.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
- 10.9. Resolution
(ID # [25-0250](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Mbah, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Strezo, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Sait and Councilor Wilson
In support of a contract for Tufts University's full-time lecturers.
- Councilor Burnley spoke about the work of the lecturers and about them being without a contract at the present time and said that Tufts was using bait and switch tactics with the lecturers. He sponsored lecturer Ted Simpson who spoke about their dedication and noted that they walked out of their classrooms last week in protest, saying that they're asking for fair treatment from Tufts to keep up with the cost of living. Mr. Simpson stated that Tufts is claiming financial hardship while claiming a surplus of funds to their Board of Directors. Tufts offered lecturers a \$250 raise per year. Brenna Heisman also spoke, saying that the lecturers are professionals and experts in their respective fields and that they have been negotiating for 11 months to get manageable workloads and salaries. She stated that Tufts offered a reduction in courses taught from 6 to 5 and noted that class sizes

are increasing but there is no benefit for teaching larger classes. Councilor Ewen-Campen told the speakers that the community has their backs and Councilor Wilson said the people who should be upset are the people paying \$70,000 tuition at Tufts. Councilor Mbah went on the record to support them, and Councilor McLaughlin spoke about personal experiences with Tufts and about their exploitation of labor, adding that Tufts doesn't pay much to Somerville. Councilor Clingan said he had nothing good to say about Tufts and said they are not a good community member nor neighbor. Councilor Sait expressed outrage at the situation of not bargaining in good faith.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.10. Communication
(ID # [25-0270](#))

By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Conveying the cost of changes to identity documents, in support of item #24-1686.

Councilor Burnley spoke about the dismissal of identity markers from passports, federal websites, etc. He had previously submitted an order to create a fund to assist individuals with the cost of changing identity documents. He sponsored Kelsie Grunstra from Transgender Coalition, who said that it can be expensive and difficult to get the documents changed and that the greatest request made to them is for financial aid to accomplish getting documents changed. Cost is impactful for trans and non-binary people and Somerville is one of the places that many seek out as a safe haven.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE AND SENT FOR DISCUSSION
FOLLOWUP: Legislative Matters Committee

10.11. Officer's
Communication
(ID # [25-0278](#))

Director of Human Resources conveying the Civil Service signing lists for various certifications.

RESULT: LAID ON THE TABLE

10.12. License
(ID # [25-0272](#))

New Sign/Awning License, Tall Order, 70 Beacon Street, 2 signs.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.13. License
(ID # [25-0271](#))

New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Assembly Square Auto Sales, 37 Mystic Avenue, 1 vehicle inside and 18 vehicles outside, Monday - Sunday: 8am to 8pm.

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Licenses and Permits Committee

10.14. Public Event
(ID # [25-0273](#)) Union Square Main Streets applying for a Public Event License for Union Square Farmers Market on Saturdays, May 10 to October 25 from 6:45am to 2pm.

RESULT: APPROVED

10.15. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0269](#)) John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust, requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 4 (MR4).

RESULT: REFERRED FOR RECOMMENDATION
FOLLOWUP: Land Use Committee

10.16. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0277](#)) Greta Pintacuda submitting comments re: bird feeding.

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was Adjourned at 10:09 PM.