



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES**

January 28, 2020  
REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Lance L. Davis	Chair	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Vice Chair	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three City Councilor	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two City Councilor	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four City Councilor	Absent	

Councilor Jesse Clingan was attending a job linkage trust meeting.

Others present: Khushbu Webber-Mayor's Office, Julie McKenzie-City Solicitor's office, Fire Chief Breen, Deputy Fire Chief Major, James Stanford-SPD, Christine Kuhn-SomerStat, Ellen Collins-Personnel, Meredith Willis-SPD, Robert Hodnett-SFD Local 76, Michael Jefferson-SFD Local 76 and Candace Cooper-Personnel Director.

The meeting was held in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson Davis and adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

**209592: Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology General Use Policy.**

The Committee discussed the draft policy provided by the Administration. The recently passed Surveillance Technology Ordinance will not take effect until October but this draft is being provided so that the Administration can get a head start on gathering the information that is required by the ordinance. Chair Davis noted that the draft policy did not have any of the specific details that are required by the ordinance. Ms. Webber stated that the Administration's intent is that the General Use Policy establish a high level process under which specific Impact Reports will be generated and those Impact Reports will contain the detailed information. Chair Davis believes that that position is not consistent with what the ordinance requires, however the end result would still accomplish the same purpose. He suggested that perhaps the wording of the ordinance should be revised to more clearly explain what each document should contain and when they will be required to be provided by the Administration. The Administration will discuss potential revisions with Chair Davis and Councilor Ewen-Campen and the Committee will consider those changes at a future meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**209582: Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition Authorizing the Appointment of Special Firefighters.**

Ms. McKenzie, Chief Labor Counsel, stated the city and Local 76 reached an agreement to allow fire retirees to be designated as special firefighters so that they can do detail work when staffing is not otherwise available. Due to large amount of construction work happening in the city there is additional need for details to monitor things like welding work. Special firefighters would require annual certification to make sure they can do the work, similar to the process for SPD. It was stated that the City Council would not be involved in annual certification as approval confirmation. Michael Jefferson from Local 76 stated the city is growing and some details have gone unfilled and they can use the help to protect the city. Councilor Scott raised concerns about ensuring transparency and suggested names of special firefighters be provided to the City Council on an annual basis.. He also asked whether special firefighters would be covered by the city's insurance and indemnification policies to the same degree as regular firefighters. Counsel McKenzie stated that she will look in to those questions and respond to the Committee in writing.

Councilor Scott motioned and it was accepted to amend the following section to Section 5: "A record of all such appointments shall be provided to the City Council no later than May 31 of each year."

Chair Davis will follow up with the Administration, Ms. McKenzie, on liability information.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED</b>
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**208574: That the Administration clarify the status of part-time employees hired as part of the proposed Police Department Cadet Program, and the role of the City Council in confirming nominees for participation.**

Items 208574 and 208703 were discussed together.

The draft home rule petition (Item 4) was previously recommended for approval by this Committee before it was sent back in order to discuss certain questions raised by Councilor Scott. Ms. McKenzie, Ms. Collins, Ms. Cooper and Mr. Stanford from SPD appeared before the committee. It was stated that several communities have cadet programs. Ms. Cooper clarified that that, for purposes of the Civil Service list, the Veteran and disabled Veteran preference would remain a priority over the additional point priority that the cadet program provides.. Councilor Scott stated that he reached out to HRD for additional information on this matter. There were discussions about limiting the number of cadets a year. The program is a rolling enrollment of 5 per year with candidates aged 18-21 years old. Councilor Scott asked how to address equity of opportunity.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**208703: Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to authorize the City to appoint Police Cadets under certain circumstances.**

Items 208574 and 208703 were discussed together.

**Councilor Scott motioned and it was accepted asking the City Solicitor's office to respond in writing before the next meeting on what options the City Councilor would have to modify or repeal this HRP.**

**RESULT:**

**APPROVED**

**Handout:**

- Ordinance (with 209592)