



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Committee Meeting

Monday - November 29, 2021, 6:00 PM
Virtual

AGENDA

(Posted online: 11/23/21 at 4:53 PM)

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, 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/8183305924486725392>

1. Approval of the May 3, 2021 Minutes

COVID-19 Response

- 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).
- 3. 212304: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Health and Human Services discuss with this Council, what COVID/Delta variant safety measures and mandates are being proposed, including mandating vaccinations.

Motion To: **Addiction Treatment, Generally**

- 4. 208261: Discuss** (Clingan, McLaughlin) – That the Director of Health and Human Services highlight any funding for drug treatment during the budget process.
- 5. 212035: Discuss** Director of Health and Humans Services responding to #208261 re:

funding for drug treatment.

6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **212241: Recommend** (Mbah, Scott, Ewen-Campen) – Requesting the establishment of a restitution program for current and former residents who have been harmed by the war on drugs.

Engagement Center/Harm Reduction Site-related Items

10. **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.
11. **211715: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Directors of SPCD and Health and Human Services discuss options for the Somerville Homeless Coalition and other community based organizations who need public spaces for engagement centers to meet unsheltered people in a safe and private environment.
12. **212235: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Davis, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Niedergang, Mbah) – That the Director of Health and Human Services identify a location for a harm reduction site to provide alternative methods of addressing substance abuse while plans for a safe consumption site are prepared.
13. **212570: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Clingan, Davis, Mbah) – That the Administration update this Council on plans to create a "Community Engagement Center" to offer support to residents experiencing homelessness or otherwise in need.

Other Public Health-Related

14. **210241: Discuss** (Clingan, Rossetti, Mbah, Ballantyne, Strezo) – That the Chief of Police

expand the Community Outreach, Help and Recovery program.

15. **210246: Discuss** (Ewen-Campen, Clingan, Scott, Strezo, Mbah, Ballantyne, Niedergang, Rossetti) – That the Director of Health and Human Services work with City Council to create and fund an unarmed agency that responds to mental health emergencies, addiction and substance-abuse emergencies, and other non-violent crises.
16. **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.
17. **211716: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Strezo, Scott) – That the Directors of Health and Human Services and Infrastructure and Asset Management advise this Council whether gender neutral bathrooms are available in all public K-8 schools, as requested by middle schoolers.
18. **212473: Discuss** (Scott, Davis, Clingan, Ballantyne, Mbah, McLaughlin) – That the Director Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to increase reliability and frequency of enforcement of public health violations in the City.
19. **212618: Discuss** (Strezo) – That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the staffing of the Environmental Health Coordinator position to help combat rat infestations throughout the city.

Related to SHA Police

20. **210239: Discuss** (Clingan, McLaughlin, Davis, Niedergang, Scott) – That the Mayor work with the Director of the Somerville Housing Authority to abolish the Housing Authority Police Department and reallocate the funds for social services for Housing Authority residents.
21. **210240: Discuss** (Clingan, McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Scott, Strezo, Davis) – That the Director of the Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) develop a formal process for SHA residents to report SHA Police misconduct, in lieu of an outright abolition.
22. **211929: Discuss** (Clingan, Strezo) – That the Chief of Police request an update from the Housing Authority on the 2020-discussed reforms such as marked vehicles, uniformed officers, body cameras, and updated policies and procedures for officer accountability and discipline.
23. **212190: Discuss** Acting Chief of Police responding to #211929 re: Housing Authority Police reforms.

To consider for discharge to OSEE (or to place on file)

24. **207449: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Traffic and Parking waive parking dumpster fees for property owners who are de-paving their driveways.
25. **208362: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ballantyne, Clingan) – That the Director of Water and Sewer and the Director of Sustainability and the Environment create a water preservation program to encourage water preservation among residents and limit water bills.

To consider for closing/placing on file

26. **206427: Discuss** (Hirsch, Mbah) – That the Superintendent of Inspectional Services report on whether or not an increased amount of construction can lead to more lead exposure, and what measures ISD uses to ensure contractors limit the release of lead into the soil or air.
27. **206585: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Administration share a more comprehensive set of goals related to air quality based on CAFEH study results, when or if available.
28. **206856: Discuss** (Hirsch) – That the Administration consider a public information effort to inform the community about code violations that impact public safety, such as improper lead paint removal.
29. **207040: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, and the Entire Board) – That the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer, and related staff, discuss how each department receives and handles a 911 call, including the dispatch of State Police, E911, Fire Alarm, and Cataldo Ambulance, and including the handling of asthmatic-related emergencies.
30. **207042: Discuss** (Hirsch, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, and the Entire Board) – Expressing the intent to work towards helping improve systems involving emergency response, care and education related to asthma.
31. **208360: Discuss** (McLaughlin, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Chief of Police, the Director of Health and Human Services, the Director of Parks and Recreation and other relevant groups appear before the Public Health and Public Safety Committee to discuss strategies to prevent youth violence and gun possession.
32. **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.
33. **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.

34. **208910: Discuss** (Davis) – That the Administration report to this Council on implementation of the Vulnerable Road Users Ordinance including, without limitation, application to FW Russell Disposal.
35. **208922: Discuss** (Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Niedergang) – That the City Solicitor and Chief of Police report to this Council on how civil asset forfeiture funds have been received and spent over the past 5 years, and how they can be directed to the General Fund.
36. **209097: Discuss** Assistant City Solicitor responding to #208922 re: civil asset forfeiture funds.
37. **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.
38. **209539: Discuss** (Niedergang, Ballantyne, Davis, Clingan) – That the City Solicitor inform this Council of the minimum condition that would allow the Supervisor of Inspectional Services or the Commissioner of Public Works to clear a sidewalk that is in violation of the snow shoveling ordinance, and charge or lien the property owner for the cost.
39. **210170: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Strezo, Davis, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Mbah, White Jr.) – That the Director of Communications and the Director of Economic Development publicize that one of the best ways to support small businesses offering take-out service is to call them directly to place an order, and pick it up instead of using third party delivery services, to help save them unwanted costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
40. **210428: Discuss** (Ballantyne, McLaughlin, Davis, Scott) – That the Administration advise this Council as soon as possible, what oversight it will implement with Tufts University, following Tufts' decision to invite all undergraduate students back to campus for the fall 2020 semester.
41. **210432: Discuss** 19 residents requesting a Public Hearing on Tufts University's plans to re-open its campus in the fall.
42. **210741: Discuss** (Mbah, Ballantyne, Clingan, Niedergang, Ewen-Campen) – That the Administration appear before this Council to give a report on the Public School building reopening plans.
43. **210743: Discuss** (Scott, Ewen-Campen, Davis, Mbah) – Proposing a process to create the Somerville Community Safety Coalition.

44. **211175: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Chiefs of Police and Fire discuss with this Council, by the end of February 2021, the staffing requirements for their respective departments, as there are suggestions that staff counts should be changed.
45. **211320: Discuss** (Ballantyne, Davis, Strezo, Mbah, Rossetti) – That the Administration, with the Director of Health and Human Services, share a re-opening plan for schools and businesses which defines goals, risks and contingencies.
46. **211353: Discuss** (Mbah) – That the Director of Health and Human Services create a vaccination site, once more vaccines become available, given the number of vulnerable populations.
47. **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.
48. **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.
49. **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.
50. **212303: Discuss** (Ballantyne) – That the Director of Health and Human Services provide metric-based transparent information for small businesses and schools as we learn to live with COVID and follow emerging science.