



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

May 13, 2014

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Rebekah L. Gewirtz | Chair | Present | |
| Mary Jo Rossetti | Vice Chair | Present | |
| John M. Connolly | Alderman At Large | Present | |
| Matthew McLaughlin | Ward One Alderman | Present | |
| William A. White Jr. | Alderman At Large | Absent | |

Others present: Alderman Niedergang, Frank Wright, Jason Grossfield, George Proakis, Andi Wheeler (Mass Equality), Sonja Darai, Elizabeth Field, Mimi Graney

Approval of the Minutes of April 17, 2014

RESULT:

APPROVED

Approval of the Minutes of April 22, 2014

RESULT:

APPROVED

195725 - That the City Solicitor provide this Board's Committee on Legislative Matters with input on restricting formula businesses in Somerville by requiring specific review and oversight before they may enter central business districts.:

Mr. Proakis discussed the zoning code, use tables, community concerns, special permit triggering points, the definition of formula business, post review findings and his desire to build a business district draft from the ground up. Ms. Graney spoke about controlling the design and square footage of businesses and the negative impact of formula businesses on neighborhoods and Mr. Grossfield discussed possible legal challenges.

Recommendations were made to circulate the proposed draft to all aldermen and the Chamber of Commerce for their feedback.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196357 - That the city's Human Rights Policy at Ordinance 2-237 be amended by adding the words "gender identity and expression," to protect transgender individuals from discrimination.:

Ms. Wheeler, Ms. Field and Ms. Darai spoke about some of the issues facing transgender individuals as well as difficulties faced by businesses when checking ID's. Similar protections are in place in Cambridge, Amherst, Boston, Northampton and Salem. City Solicitor Wright recommended language for the amendment.

RESULT:

APPROVED

196362 - That the City Solicitor appear before this Board to describe the process for responding to requests for public records, including fees and redactions, and how this comports with the requirements of state law, the Secretary of State's Public Records Division, and the practices of other communities.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196644 - That the City Solicitor provide the Committee on Legislative Matters with an analysis of the Law Department's support to charge for review and redaction of requested information.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196645 - That the City Solicitor provide the Committee on Legislative Matters with the good faith estimate of number of hours and the hourly rates charged for every information request this year, to date.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196646 - That the City Solicitor report to the Committee on Legislative Matters on the Board's ability to create guidelines for public information requests.:

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196780 - That the City Solicitor advise this Board of the city's ability to control the dissemination of advertisements from "Globe Direct", and inquire why individual requests to stop unsolicited deliveries are not followed.:

Mr. Wright spoke about a proposed ordinance and opt out policy relative to this issue.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

196781 - That the Licensing Commission reconsider the regulation for liquor establishments to leave doors open between 8 AM and 9 PM, Monday through Friday, in

areas that aren't central business districts, and convey to this Board how this regulation may be altered.:

Mr. Wright reported that this issue will be dealt with at the next Licensing Commission hearing.

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED