



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 14, 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	Absent	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Alderman Katjana Ballantyne, Alderman Mark Niedergang, David Shapiro - Law, Stan Koty - DPW, Steve MacEachern - DPW, Ed O'Donnell - OSPCD, Frank Wright - Law, Omar Boukili - Mayor's Office

**196385 - That the City Solicitor determine whether the U.S. Postal Service complied with federal law and applicable guidelines regarding the closing and selling of the Union Square Post Office facility.:**

Mr. Shapiro told the members that a public hearing should have been held by the Postal Service in 2011, but he was not able to find a notice about it in any of the local papers. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the city does not intend to file a challenge. A resident spoke about the building's importance to the city and about the lack of public participation in the process, in violation of federal law.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

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

Solicitor Wright informed the members that the Board of Aldermen does not have the authority to set fees or charges for FOIA requests. That authority lies with executive branch.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**196926 - Licensing Commission responding to #196781 re: regulating when certain liquor establishments can leave their doors open.:**

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**

**197300 - That the Administration provide this Board with information regarding the Municipal Athletic Facilities Commission referenced in City Ordinance 2-309.6:**

Mr. Boukili stated that all commissions are being examined as part of an administrative code update.

**RESULT:****PLACED ON FILE**

**197330 - That the Director of SPCD and the City Solicitor apprise this Board of the latest developments with regard to the sale of the Post Office in Union Square and the ongoing dispute as to the mural.:**

The property was sold on September 17th to Don Law. The city has had some discussions about including arts programs that would be consistent with the revitalization of Union Square. Members were assured that Mr. Law understands the mural issue and is open to developing a plan for public access.

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**

**197413 - Requesting approval of an amendment to Ordinance 2-322 regarding salary ranges.:**

Mr. Boukili requested that discussion of this item be delayed, so that the Personnel and Finance Directors may be involved.

**RESULT:****KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**197479 - That the Commissioner of Public Works report to this Board the current policy on the posting of paper advertisements (e.g. apartments, babysitting, etc.), and remove all such papers citywide.:**

Mr. Koty told the members that the DPW removes these postings when time allows and Mr. MacEachern explained what he does to have the individuals posting notices remove them.

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**