



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

December 3, 2014

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Mary Jo Rossetti	Chair	Present	
John M. Connolly	Vice Chair	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	

Others present: David Shapiro, Frank Wright, Michael Glavin, Jackie Rossetti, Omar Boukili, representatives from Tufts

197473 - Proposing an amendment to the City's Ordinances to regulate University Accountability.:

Mr. Shapiro reviewed the changes to the proposed ordinance. Four representatives from Tufts were in attendance: Barbara Rubel, Mary Jeka, Robert Joseph and Mary Pat McMahon. Tufts respectfully requested that the ordinance be amended to reflect the landlords who are renting properties to the student be noted in violation of local health, sanitary, building and housing codes. Tufts asked that the ordinance go into effect for the September 2015 semester.

There was a discussion about Boston's 2002 ordinance not being enforced and the committee would like to explore Boston's original ordinance and follow up on its enforcement process and would also like to hear what Somerville's ISD Superintendant has to say about the housing code as it relates to this ordinance. Mr. Glavin believes that ISD will be able to ensure that landlords are in compliance with the law regarding zoning to promote health and safety.

The committee discussed making a change to the draft ordinance in section 2 to put more responsibility on landlords rather than on the universities.

Mr. Glavin asked for Tufts' help in distributing information to students about housing and the ordinance to help continue to support a good working relationship between the university and the City.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

197785 - Proposing an Anti-Nepotism Ordinance.:

The committee moved to amend the ordinance to include the School Committee and asked that all School Committee members be informed of their inclusion in the ordinance.

Alderman Niedergang requested that the City Solicitor determine if there are any communities within Massachusetts that have the same, or a similar ordinance, and if none are found, to determine why.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

197794 - That the City Solicitor report to this Board whether it may enact an ordinance that would prohibit elected officials from employment or contracting with the City for a specific period of time following the termination of their service.:

Mr. Shapiro provided a draft ordinance that was very similar to the one used by the City of Melrose. The committee requested that a copy of the recommended ordinance be sent to all BOA members prior to the next BOA meeting.

RESULT:

APPROVED

197945 - Requesting an amendment to Ordinances 12-8 and 1-11 regarding snow clearing.:

Mr. Shapiro distributed a draft amendment to the ordinance that allows the city to shovel public sidewalks and fine the resident if the sidewalk is not cleared within the city's timeframe. In addition, the fines have been increased.

RESULT:

APPROVED