



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

September 21, 2010

REPORT OF THE RULES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Vice Chair	Absent	
Walter F. Pero	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Rebekah L. Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
John Long	City Clerk	Present	
Frank Wright	City Solicitor	Present	
Robert McWatters	Clerk of Committees	Present	
Charles Sillari, Jr.	Clerk of Committees	Present	
Peter Forcellese	Clerk of Committees	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Bruce M. Desmond	Alderman At Large	Present	

- **Review of BOA rules**

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the Rules of the Board of Aldermen so that they would be in compliance with the state's Open Meeting Law. Changes were discussed for the following:

Rule 3 - changes adopted, as modified (pending)

Rule 22 - changes adopted as presented

Rule 23 - changes adopted as modified

Rule 24 - changes adopted as presented

Rule 43 - rule to be retained and modified

Rule 47 - changes adopted as modified

Rule 49 - Chairman White requested the City Solicitor to examine this rule as he is concerned that documents are not actually signed. Mr. Wright will research the matter to determine whether electronic approvals are sufficient. (pending)

Rule 53 - changes adopted as modified

The Committee will continue working on the rules and will present the new proposed rules to the full Board of Aldermen when work is completed.

- **Review of the State's new Open Meeting Law and its impact on the rules and operating procedures of the Board of Aldermen and its committees.**

Mr. Wright reviewed the Law Department's responses to the committee's questions from the September 8th meeting and stated that he would request further clarification from the Attorney General's Office regarding questions #2 and 5, (on the attached handout of responses). There was also a discussion about incorporating the response to question #1 into the Rules of the Board of Aldermen.