



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

October 22, 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	Present	

Alderman Tony Lafuente, Alderman Katjana Ballantyne, Alderman Mark Niedergang, David Shapiro (Law), Frank Wright (Law), Omar Boukili (Mayor's Office)

Chairman Gewirtz announced that the committee's October 27th meeting would be the last meeting that she will chair, until her return from maternity leave. President White intends to appoint another member to the committee until her return.

Approval of the Minutes of October 08, 2014

RESULT:

APPROVED

197158 - Supporting Mayor Curtatone's May 22, 2014, Executive Order regarding the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Secure Communities Program.:

RESULT:

WORK COMPLETED

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

This item will remain in committee until the Personnel Director is available to discuss the matter. Mr. Boukili will email the list of affected positions to all members.

RESULT:

KEPT IN COMMITTEE

197647 - That the City Solicitor draft an ordinance similar to the Boston Trust Act.:

Mr. Shapiro reviewed the language of the proposed ordinance. Alderman White asked for summaries of the federal cases, including detailed information relative to damages, attorney fees, etc. Alderman Rossetti requested a count of other communities that have passed similar legislation.

RESULT:**APPROVED****197785 - Proposing an Anti-Nepotism Ordinance.:**

Alderman Rossetti went on record stating that she has filed the appropriate disclosures, allowing her to participate in discussions on this item. Alderman McLaughlin recused himself stating that he has 2 brothers who have taken the fire fighter exam.

Alderman Lafuente, (sitting as a member of the audience), was asked by the chair to speak on the item. He stated that he submitted the item based on practices he has seen and his belief that every position should be posted. Mr. Boukili pointed out that the city's hiring practices have been very clear and straight forward, explaining that occasionally, the mayor has a qualified individual in mind for a particular position, eliminating the need to advertise the position.

Alderman Rossetti stated concern about how this might affect some city youths who take summer jobs with the city and who may be related to elected officials.

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 stated that the city is allowed to be more restrictive than state law and noted that the state statute of waiting 6 months does not apply in this scenario. Alderman Niedergang, (sitting as a member of the audience), was asked by the chair to speak on the item. He requested that the Solicitor's Office present the committee with a few models for consideration and prepare a draft ordinance. Members discussed possible exceptions to the rule, specifically, whether former or current elected officials should be allowed to compete for positions.

RESULT:**KEPT IN COMMITTEE****196730 - Requesting approval to amend the Ordinances at Chapter 15 with respect to undue influence.:****RESULT:****KEPT IN COMMITTEE**