

City of Somerville, Massachusetts
Matters of Business of the City Council

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

February 25, 2020, 7:00 PM
City Council Chamber-City Hall-93 Highland Avenue

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Roll Call Call of the Roll.
 (ID # 22619)

2. Remembrances Remembrances.
 (ID # 22620)

3. Minutes Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting,
 (ID # 22621) January 23, 2020.

CITATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

4. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 22615) That the Director of SPCD update this Council on
 creating a Bicycle Master Plan, and requiring that future
 road work adhere to this plan.

5. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 22618) That the Director of SPCD update the City Council on
 the status of the Union Square D4.3 block.

6. Order By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 22616) That the Director of SPCD update the Ward 3 Councilor
 on plans to paint "bump-outs" on the northeast corner of
 Vinal Avenue and Summer Street, and on the southeast
 corner of Quincy and Summer Streets.

7. Resolution By City Councilor Ewen-Campen
 (ID # 22617) That the Administration routinely distribute the
 Redevelopment Authority's meeting agendas to all City
 Councilors via email, and submit regular written updates
 to this Council.

8. Order (ID # 22626) By City Councilor Niedergang
That the City Solicitor draft language to amend the Adult Use Marijuana Ordinance to require full disclosure of all ownership interests, including names and percentage interest of all owners or shareholders.
9. Order (ID # 22628) By City Councilor Niedergang
That this Council consider amending the Adult Use Marijuana Ordinance to remove Somerville residency as a qualifier for being a priority applicant in Group A, in order to prioritize Economic Empowerment applicants.
10. Order (ID # 22627) By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD list the members of the Marijuana Advisory Committee on the city's website.
11. Order (ID # 22629) By City Councilor Niedergang
That #207449 be discharged from this Council's Traffic and Parking Committee and referred to a committee which the Director of Inspectional Services attends.
12. Communication (ID # 22631) By City Councilor McLaughlin
In his capacity as President, rescheduling to Tuesday, April 28, 2020 the regular meeting of this Council that had been scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. Resolution 209284 By City Councilor Scott
Supporting House Resolution 702, The People's Justice Guarantee.
14. Order 209643 By City Councilor Rossetti
That the Director of Inspectional Services report to this Council by February 25, 2020 the policy for communicating to the Police Department special conditions imposed for city wide projects, such as working hours.
15. Resolution 209644 By City Councilor Rossetti, Davis, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Niedergang, Hirsch, White Jr., Scott
That the Administration update this Council by February 25, 2020 of any negotiated relief related to the recently-announced GLX delayed timeline and resultant impact to the city's residents and businesses.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

16. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22610) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on February 19, 2020.

- B. Mayor's Request 209404 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Titania Ng to the Conservation Commission.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- C. Mayor's Request 209405 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Henry Ayanna to the Urban Forestry Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- D. Mayor's Request 209406 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Conor Guidarelli to the Urban Forestry Committee.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- E. Mayor's Request 209491 Requesting approval of an exemption for David Gibbs pursuant to MGL c268A, s20(d).
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- F. Officer's Communication 209550 School Committee Member Sarah Phillips requesting an exemption under MGL c268A s20(d).
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- G. Mayor's Request 209590 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Police Officer Wolff Berrouet to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- H. Mayor's Request 209591 Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Police Officer Steve St. Hilaire to the position of Police Sergeant.
RECOMMENDED: Approved

- I. Order 209642 By City Councilor Mbah, Niedergang That the Director of Personnel appear before this Council to explain the failure to urge the Council to take expedited action on two Police Department promotions that would have diversified the superior officer ranks had the civil service list not expired before the Council was able to consider the promotions.

17. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22612) Report of the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments and Personnel Matters, meeting on February 25, 2020.

18. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22611) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on February 20, 2020.

- B. Order 198398 By City Councilor White Jr. That this Board's Committee on Legislative Matters review the current pervious surfaces ordinances for their effectiveness and sufficiency. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

19. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- A. Committee Report (ID # 22609) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on February 19, 2020.

- B. Order 197981 By City Councilor McWatters That the Commissioner of Public Works determine if it is feasible to place a bump out at the corner of Bonner and Columbus Avenues. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- C. Order 199456 By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Director of Traffic and Parking conduct a traffic study on Lincoln and Perkins Streets and propose traffic calming measures. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- D. Resolution 199700 By City Councilor White Jr., Lafuente, Sullivan, Connolly, Rossetti That the Traffic Commission consider installing a temporary speed bump on Governor Winthrop Road near Grimmons Park to protect children from speeding vehicles. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- E. Resolution 199846 By City Councilor McWatters, McLaughlin That MASS DOT consider placing a pedestrian signal at Chester Street and McGrath Highway. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- F. Order 200223 By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Commissioner of Public Works create clearly defined lines along Walnut Street, by Pearl Street and Broadway, to eliminate two lane traffic problems. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- G. Order 200240 By City Councilor McLaughlin That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a sign on Cross Street East prohibiting cutoff traffic onto I-93. RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- H. Order 200290 By City Councilor Gewirtz, Rossetti
That the Director of Traffic and Parking add an additional stop sign on Meacham Road facing Buena Vista Road to clarify that Buena Vista Road drivers must stop before turning onto Meacham Road.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- I. Order 200746 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a SLOW sign on the Cross Street bridge.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- J. Order 200856 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install signs at appropriate sections of Osgood Street indicating that it is not a through way.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- K. Order 201135 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking investigate making Brook Street a one way street, going away from Cross Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- L. Order 201142 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install parking meters in front of 161 Broadway.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- M. Order 201377 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking remove the NO TURN ON RED sign on the corner of Broadway and Franklin Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- N. Order 201406 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a DEAD END or NO THRU WAY sign at the entrance to Kent Court.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- O. Order 201407 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a PRIVATE WAY sign at the entrance to Kent Court.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- P. Order 201487 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking devise a strategy to more forcefully implement the DO NOT ENTER restriction on Perkins Street, by the Boston line.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- Q. Order 201615 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking report to this Board on the absence of parking regulations and signage on large portions of Somerville Avenue.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- R. Order 201694 By City Councilor Davis
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a flashing STOP sign on Buena Vista Road, where it meets Meacham Road.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- S. Order 201780 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider adding an "except Perkins Street abutters" note to the Do Not Enter sign on Perkins Street, on the Boston line.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- T. Order 201783 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a blinking SLOW - CHILDREN sign on Lincoln Avenue.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- U. Order 201785 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install YIELD signs along the rotary in Assembly Row, by Legal Seafood, as well as signage indicating who has the right of way.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- V. Order 201786 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking address traffic issues at the intersection of Bonair, Dana and Edmands Streets.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- W. Order 201829 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of Traffic and Parking explain the reason for the NO PARKING – DRIVEWAY sign at the West Branch Police sub-station.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- X. Order 202173 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking put a DO NOT ENTER sign on the corner of Walnut Street and Medford street to stop cars from going the wrong way on Walnut Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- Y. Order 202351 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a blinking SLOW sign at 240 Pearl Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- Z. Order 202791 By City Councilor Sullivan, Lafuente, White Jr., Connolly, Rossetti
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install reflective material on the STOP sign post at Governor Winthrop and Ten Hills Roads.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- AA. Order 202799 By City Councilor McLaughlin, Sullivan, Rossetti
That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider placing warning signs at the entrance of East Broadway, at McGrath Highway, to let drivers know the street will merge to one lane.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AB. Order 202860 By City Councilor Rossetti, McLaughlin, Sullivan
That the Chief of Police send a directed patrol to monitor Mount Vernon Street for wrong-way traffic 5-6PM.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AC. Order 202861 By City Councilor Rossetti, McLaughlin, Sullivan
That the Chief of Police monitor lower Broadway regularly for illegal u-turns.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AD. Order 203054 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking review the line of site for traffic turning from Summer Street onto Preston Road and recommend changes to parking and signage.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AE. Order 203055 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider a resident petition for a change to Merriam Street from 2-way to 1-way and provide residents with related information.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AF. Order 203067 By City Councilor Rossetti
That the Director of Traffic and Parking and the Director of Information Technology provide Parking Control Officers with the ability to review local infraction history by license plate.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AG. Order 203070 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with data on car ownership and parking issues at developments permitted in the past five years.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AH. Order 203074 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider prohibiting car traffic around Artisan Way and Assembly Row to allow for increased pedestrian accessibility.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AI. Order 203274 By City Councilor McWatters, Rossetti, Connolly, Sullivan, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking consider placing a raised crosswalk at the intersection of Summer and Lowell Streets.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- AJ. Resolution 203363 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Administration advise why speed dampening options were denied for Fairfax Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AK. Order 203372 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Directors of SPCD and Traffic and Parking place appropriate signs and signals for safety zones in Ward 2, especially around the Argenziano School.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AL. Order 203396 By City Councilor Sullivan, McLaughlin, Connolly, Rossetti, White Jr.
That the Director of Traffic and Parking determine whether fire trucks and ambulances can safely access Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island Avenues from Pennsylvania Avenue, and make appropriate recommendations to this Board.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AM. Resolution 203397 By City Councilor Sullivan
The Traffic Commission consider making Mt. Vernon Street an ABUTTERS ONLY roadway, from Pearl Street to Broadway, during peak travelling hours.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AN. Resolution 203488 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Traffic Commission consider changing Merriam Street to a one way street, from Charlestown Street to Somerville Avenue.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AO. Order 203490 By City Councilor Heuston
The Director of Traffic and Parking place a second DO NOT ENTER sign at the corner of Bolton and Oak Streets, and a one way arrow sign on top of the DO NOT ENTER signs.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AP. Order 203578 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of SPCD work with MA DOT to place a DO NOT BLOCK THE INTERSECTION sign and related street markings at the intersection of Linwood Street and McGrath Highway.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AQ. Order 203591 By City Councilor Heuston
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a sign at the entrance of Prentiss Street to indicate its Private Way status.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AR. Order 203993 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a NO PARKING sign between 129 and 133 Cross Street.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- AS. Order 204228 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking replace the speed signs on Florence Street with 20 MPH signs.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AT. Order 206695 By City Councilor Niedergang, Hirsch
That the Director of SPCD report to this Board on any discussions with our state delegation to increase the per-ride assessment that ride-share companies pay, and how this Board could advocate for an increase.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AU. Order 207165 By City Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Traffic and Parking install a STOP sign at the intersection of Temple Road and Governor Winthrop Road.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AV. Order 207368 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Ballantyne
That the Director of SPCD report to this Board on the contribution of ride-hailing services, including Uber and Lyft, to traffic congestion, and suggest policies to reduce this impact.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AW. Order 207449 By City Councilor Ballantyne
That the Director of Traffic and Parking waive parking dumpster fees for property owners who are de-paving their driveways.
RECOMMENDED: Discharged w/no Recommendation
- AX. Resolution 207490 By City Councilor Davis, Hirsch, Mbah, Ballantyne, Ewen-Campen, Scott, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, White Jr.
That the Administration update this Council on any agreements with ride share companies, including their designated drop-off/pick-up areas in Davis Square, and advise on any efforts to contract with additional companies or introduce additional designated areas, and discuss with this Council the enforcement of illegal parking in those areas.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AY. Resolution 207491 By City Councilor Davis
That the Administration consider signage in high-usage areas directing ride share users to the existence and location of designated drop-off/pick-up areas.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- AZ. Order 207713 By City Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Traffic and Parking place a NO OUTLET TO WASHINGTON STREET sign on the corner of George Street and Broadway to prevent cut through traffic due to the GLX bridge closures.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

- BA. Resolution 207890 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, McLaughlin, Niedergang, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Davis, Rossetti, Hirsch, Mbah, White Jr.
That the Administration work with MassDOT and the GLX team to address the 3 primary safety issues with the Community Path Extension between Washington Street and Lechmere that have been identified by the Friends of the Community Path.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BB. Order 208249 By City Councilor Ewen-Campen, Scott, Clingan, Ballantyne, Niedergang, Rossetti, McLaughlin, Hirsch, Mbah
That the Director of SPCD modify the Central Hill Campus plan to include an elevator from the new Gilman Square MBTA station to the Central Hill Campus, so that people with mobility issues are able to use the new station to access City Hall, the Library, and the High School.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BC. Order 208256 By City Councilor Hirsch, Ewen-Campen
That the Director of SPCD identify both a temporary and longer-term Lyft/Uber pick-up point in Union Square.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BD. Order 208378 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD install traffic calming infrastructure on Morrison Avenue, such as a speed bump between Cedar Street and Willow Avenue, as soon as possible to protect pedestrians crossing Morrison Avenue, especially at Highland Road near Lexington Park and the Community Path.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BE. Order 208483 By City Councilor Hirsch
That the Director of Traffic and Parking provide an update on progress regarding processing residential permits.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BF. Order 209445 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD adjust the light signal timing at Central and Medford Streets so pedestrians have enough time to cross safely.
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed
- BG. Order 209658 By City Councilor Niedergang
That the Director of SPCD update this Council on plans shared with the Ward 5 and Ward 4 Councilors in November for “expansions in the network of 20 MPH safety zones in December, January and February until all local streets are covered.”
RECOMMENDED: Work Completed

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

20. Mayor's Request (ID # 22608) Requesting approval of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to correct procedural requirements, unintended conflicts between regulations, numerical errors, or inadvertent omissions.
21. Mayor's Request (ID # 22630) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Katharine Milton to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.
22. Mayor's Request (ID # 22622) Requesting the re-appointment of Frank Santangelo as Constable.

COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

23. Officer's Communication (ID # 22576) Director of SomerStat responding to #204874 re: publishing de-identified parking permit data.
24. Officer's Communication (ID # 22607) Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry responding to #207167 re: updated Capital Investment Plan progress reports for parks and open space projects.

NEW BUSINESS

25. License/Permit (ID # 22613) Public Event License, Independent Film Festival, Davis Sq near the Somerville Theater, Apr 22-27, various times.
26. Public Communication (ID # 22623) Nikhilesh Gorukanti proposing a zoning amendment to re-zone their property at 365-369 Somerville Ave to remove the Pedestrian Street designation.
27. Public Communication (ID # 22624) 4 residents submitting comments re: the removal of Foss Park trees.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

28. Order (ID # 22633) By City Councilor Rossetti That this Council review with the Administration, Cambridge's recent Home Rule Petition to improve the safety of transportation network company vehicles operating there.
29. Mayor's Request (ID # 22596) Requesting a transfer of \$20,279.78 from the Police Public Safety Account to the Grant Match Account to cover the bulletproof vest grant match requirement.

30. Officer's Communication (ID # 22632) Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management responding to #s 209656, 209641, 209546, 209348 & 209174 re: flooding in various locations.
31. License/Permit (ID # 22635) Public Event License, Race of Ireland, Davis Sq and surrounding area, Mar 22, 7am-1pm.

LATE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT