



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## City Council

### Regular Meeting Agenda

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Thursday, August 24, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber and Remote  
Participation

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Published August 22, 2023, 2:00PM, Revised Published August 24, 2023 2:15PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the City Council may be conducted via remote participation. We will post an audio recording, audiovideo recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

Register at the following website to listen to this meeting live or to testify at any public hearing:  
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#### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

- 1.1. Roll Call                      Call of the Roll.  
(ID # [23-1304](#))
- 1.2. Remembrances              Remembrances.  
(ID # [23-1303](#))
- 1.3. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June  
(ID # [23-1273](#))                      22, 2023.
- 1.4. Minutes                        Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting, June 28,  
(ID # [23-1300](#))                      2023.

#### 2. CITATIONS

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 3.1. Grant of Location (ID # [23-1242](#)) Comcast applying for a Grant of Location to install 515 feet of conduit as follows: Starting from Utility Pole 362/6 at the intersection of Columbia Street and Webster Avenue, 300 feet to Utility Pole 76/5 at the intersection of Columbia Street and Windsor Place, from Utility Pole 76/5, 55 feet to a proposed manhole, and from said manhole, 160 feet to a point of pickup at 495 Columbia Street.

**4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS**

- 4.1. Order (ID # [23-1206](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
That this City Council hereby reappoints Kimberly M. Wells to the position of City Clerk for a three-year term.
- 4.2. Order (ID # [23-1281](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Scott and Councilor Strezo  
That the Director of Mobility design traffic calming infrastructure for Laurel Street, which sees large volumes of high speed, one-way traffic down a steep hill.
- 4.3. Resolution (ID # [23-1280](#)) By Councilor Ewen-Campen  
In support of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union.
- 4.4. Order (ID # [23-1286](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Chief of Police conduct compliance checks on liquor stores.
- 4.5. Order (ID # [23-1287](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Commissioner of Public Works and the Director of Health and Human Services coordinate daily inspection and cleanup of all City-owned properties along lower Broadway.
- 4.6. Order (ID # [23-1288](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) team work in conjunction with the Homeless Coalition to address homelessness in East Somerville open spaces.
- 4.7. Order (ID # [23-1289](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Housing and the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council regarding repeated requests to provide shelter to homeless residents.

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- 4.8. Order  
(ID # [23-1290](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the mayor and the Director of Health and Human Services engage Somerville Cares About Prevention to conduct compliance checks on establishments serving liquor to prevent over-serving of alcohol.
- 4.9. Order  
(ID # [23-1292](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Inspectional Services conduct regular inspections of liquor stores in East Somerville to ensure cleanliness outside of the properties, and fine businesses in violation accordingly.
- 4.10. Order  
(ID # [23-1293](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development investigate the possibility of seizing by eminent domain, 118 Broadway, aka the East End Grill, for the purpose of providing homelessness services.
- 4.11. Order  
(ID # [23-1294](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Director of Health and Human Services update this Council on the progress of Safe Consumption sites.
- 4.12. Resolution  
(ID # [23-1283](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Administration update this Council on the progress toward providing direct homeless services to East Somerville residents in temporary and permanent locations within Ward 1.
- 4.13. Resolution  
(ID # [23-1284](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Administration update this Council regarding increases in homelessness and the direct responses taken by the city to address those increases.
- 4.14. Resolution  
(ID # [23-1291](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
That the Administration update this Council regarding progress toward Portland Loos.
- 4.15. Resolution  
(ID # [23-1282](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Strezo, Councilor Clingan and Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Mayor declare a State of Emergency due to rapidly increasing homelessness in the city.
- 4.16. Communication  
(ID # [23-1285](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin  
Conveying numerous locations suitable for temporary and long-term shelter for the homeless population.

- 4.17. Resolution By Councilor Strezo  
(ID # [23-1295](#)) That the Administration designate a small children's section in City Hall between the Council Chamber and the Subcommittee Room for parents and caregivers.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

- 7.1. Mayor's Request Requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Zoning  
(ID # [23-1205](#)) Ordinance to repeal Section 10.9 Steep Slopes.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to allow the Chief of Police to  
(ID # [23-1230](#)) assign police officers at all polling locations for the November 7, 2023 Municipal Election, as required by the VOTES Act.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request Requesting approval of November 1, 2023 through  
(ID # [23-1231](#)) November 3, 2023 as the dates for Early Voting.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to change the polling location for  
(ID # [23-1232](#)) Ward 4 Precinct 2 and Ward 4 Precinct 2A from the Winter Hill Community Innovation School to the Senior Building at 240 Pearl Street, and the polling location for Ward 4 Precinct 3 from the Winter Hill Community Innovation School to the Brazilian Presbyterian Church at 212 School Street.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request Requesting authorization to borrow \$6,878,900 in a  
(ID # [23-1240](#)) bond, and to appropriate the same amount for various sewer improvement projects as part of participation in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) I/I Local Financial Assistance Program, Phases 9-11.
- 7.6. Mayor's Request Requesting authorization to borrow \$4,269,990 in a  
(ID # [23-1239](#)) bond, and to appropriate the same amount for the recurring FY 2024 Sewer Improvements program.
- 7.7. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$513,421 from the  
(ID # [23-1298](#)) Capital Stabilization Fund to replace seven police vehicles.
- 7.8. Mayor's Request Requesting approval to appropriate \$411,776 from the  
(ID # [23-1202](#)) Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space Reserve Fund to the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for renovation of Henry Hansen Park.

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- 7.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1204](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$150,000 from the Salary & Wage Stabilization Fund to the Police Department - Personnel Services - Other Lump Sum Benefits Account to settle pending litigation.
- 7.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1146](#)) Requesting approval to re-purpose \$100,000 in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds awarded to the Parks and Urban Forestry Division for the design of Junction Park, to be used for construction.
- 7.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1203](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$98,053 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Historic Preservation Reserve Fund to the Somerville Museum for restoration of the collection storage area.
- 7.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1201](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$97,000 from the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Open Space Reserve Fund to the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division for renovation of the Brown Schoolyard.
- 7.13. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1229](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$57,716.11 from the Veterans Department's Ordinary Maintenance - Veterans Benefits account to the Personal Services - Salaries account to fund the Veterans Project Manager position through the end of FY 2024.
- 7.14. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1260](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$2,105.53 from the Salary Contingency Account to the Medicare Account for Medicare tax reimbursement.
- 7.15. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1234](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$250,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Housing and Community Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Mobility Division for the study/design of sound walls for interstate-93 near the Mystic housing developments.
- 7.16. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1207](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Housing and Community Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Administration Division for the study of energy efficiency opportunities in affordable housing for low and moderate income households.

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- 7.17. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1208](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$100,000 grant with no new match required, from MA Department of Housing and Community Development to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development Administration Division for focus groups and a feasibility study related to the development of a rental registry and energy retrofitting housing.
- 7.18. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1261](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$95,000 grant with no new match required, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program 2.0 Planning Grant.
- 7.19. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1263](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$75,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department to support the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) sustainability and upgrades.
- 7.20. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1050](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$48,612.38 grant that requires a match, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Fire Department for the purchase of high visibility jackets.
- 7.21. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1262](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$13,616.79 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Mayor's Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for the purchase of ten motorcycle operator headsets that include microphones.
- 7.22. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1255](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$4,980 grant with no new match required, from Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to the Fire Department for the purchase of emergency response equipment.
- 7.23. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1252](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$3,830 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General to the Health and Human Services Department for the FY 2024 Healthy Summer Youth Jobs program.
- 7.24. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1238](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$16,929.60 using available funds in the Engineering Repairs & Maintenance - Highways Account for Police details.
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- 7.25. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1196](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$13,833.64 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Admin Professional and Technical account for FY 2022 Roca services.
- 7.26. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1160](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,867.08 using available funds in the Health and Human Services Professional & Technical Services Account for revenue management consulting services.
- 7.27. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1197](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$440 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Repair & Maintenance Vehicles Account for vehicle inspections.
- 7.28. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1241](#)) Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice totaling \$31.40 using available funds in the Law Department's Ordinary Maintenance Recordings Account for public access to court electronic recordings.
- 7.29. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1299](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Christopher J. Ward to the position of Deputy Police Chief.
- 7.30. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1256](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Jeffrey DiGregorio to the position of Police Captain.
- 7.31. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1257](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Salvatore Fusco to the position of Police Lieutenant.
- 7.32. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1258](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Samir Messaoudi to the position of Police Sergeant.
- 7.33. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1259](#)) Requesting confirmation of the promotion of Steven Scrugli to the position of Police Sergeant.
- 7.34. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1237](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Cassie Walston to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 7.35. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1235](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Dennis Lemard to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. License (ID # [23-1209](#)) Renewing Drainlayer's License, Environic Solutions Inc.

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| 9.2.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1210</a> ) | New Garage License, Ravelo's Auto Service, 61 Washington St, 3 vehicles inside, 4 vehicles outside for mechanical repairs and autobody work, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed. |
| 9.3.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1226</a> ) | New Second Hand Dealer License, Luce Boutique, 56 Union Square, buying and selling women's accessories and clothing.  |
| 9.4.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1227</a> ) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Charlie's Family LLC, Med. #80.  |
| 9.5.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1228</a> ) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, SSR Cab Inc, Med. #81.   |
| 9.6.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1276</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 136 Curtis St.  |
| 9.7.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1270</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 176 Curtis St.  |
| 9.8.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1267</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 12 Dearborn Rd.   |
| 9.9.  | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1269</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 29 Latin Way.   |
| 9.10. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1278</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 43 Latin Way.   |
| 9.11. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1236</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 98 Packard Ave.   |
| 9.12. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1271</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 8 Professors Row.   |
| 9.13. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1296</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 14 Professors Row.  |
| 9.14. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1275</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 28 Professors Row.  |
| 9.15. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1279</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 92 Professors Row.  |
| 9.16. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1243</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 98 Professors Row.  |
| 9.17. | License<br>(ID # <a href="#">23-1268</a> ) | Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 13 Sawyer Ave.  |
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- 9.18. License (ID # [23-1272](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 37 Sawyer Ave.
- 9.19. License (ID # [23-1274](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 45 Sawyer Ave.
- 9.20. License (ID # [23-1277](#)) Renewing Lodging House License, Tufts University, 21 Whitfield Rd.
- 9.21. Public Event (ID # [23-1301](#)) Elizabeth Devane applying for a Public Event License for Community Corporation Annual Summer BBQ on August 26 from 9am to 2pm (raindate August 27).
- 9.22. Public Event (ID # [23-1211](#)) Emma Garfinkel applying for a Public Event License for Pomi's Park Playdate on August 26 from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- 9.23. Public Event (ID # [23-1212](#)) Julia Tenney applying for a Public Event License for Boston Area Puzzle Hunt on August 27 and September 10 from 10am to 7pm.
- 9.24. Public Event (ID # [23-1302](#)) Saladin Islam applying for a Public Event License for Groundwork Harvest Festival on August 27 from 10am to 8pm.
- 9.25. Public Event (ID # [23-1245](#)) Rocco Dirico applying for a Public Event License for Tufts Discover Davis Square on September 3 from 10:30am to 6pm.
- 9.26. Public Event (ID # [23-1213](#)) Veteran's Department applying for a Public Event License for Veteran's Health and Wellness Day on September 9 from 10am to 4pm.
- 9.27. Public Event (ID # [23-1214](#)) Helen Corrigan applying for a Public Event License for Irving St Block Party on September 9 from 11:30am to 8pm (raindate September 10).
- 9.28. Public Event (ID # [23-1215](#)) Rob Maher applying for a Public Event License for Spring Hill Block Party on September 9 from 12pm to 11pm (raindate September 16).
- 9.29. Public Event (ID # [23-1216](#)) Kevin Fitzpatrick applying for a Public Event License for Greene St Block Party on September 9 from 1pm to 10pm (raindate September 23).
- 9.30. Public Event (ID # [23-1247](#)) Lorna McKenzie-Pollock applying for a Public Event License for Prospect Hill Block Party on September 9 from 3pm to 8pm (raindate September 10).
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- 9.31. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1217](#)) Alex Feldman applying for a Public Event License for Rogers Ave Block Party on September 16 from 3pm to 8pm (raindate September 17).
- 9.32. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1248](#)) Beth Kevles applying for a Public Event License for Hancock Neighborhood Block Party on September 17 from 12pm to 8pm (raindate September 24).
- 9.33. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1218](#)) Lindsay Allen applying for a Public Event License for East Somerville Main Streets Foodie Crawl on September 19 from 2pm to 10:30pm (raindate September 20).
- 9.34. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1219](#)) Parks and Recreation Department applying for a Public Event License for Fall Festival on September 23 from 10am to 5pm.
- 9.35. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1220](#)) Anton Tutter applying for a Public Event License for Outside on Oxford Block Party on September 23 from 12pm to 9pm (raindate September 24).
- 9.36. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1221](#)) Aaron Bickel applying for a Public Event License for Cycle 4 CMT Boston on September 24 from 7:30am to 9:30am.
- 9.37. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1222](#)) Nelson Salazar applying for a Public Event License for Virginia St Block Party on September 24 from 2:30pm to 8pm (raindate October 1).
- 9.38. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1223](#)) James Adams applying for a Public Event License for Hudson St Block Party on October 7 from 1pm to 7pm (raindate October 14).
- 9.39. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1249](#)) Joe Wright applying for a Public Event License for School St Block Party on October 14 from 11am to 6pm (raindate October 21).
- 9.40. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1224](#)) Meredith Jones applying for a Public Event License for Trull St Block Party on October 14 from 12pm to 9pm (raindate October 15).
- 9.41. Public Event  
(ID # [23-1225](#)) Arts Council applying for a Public Event License for SomerStreets: Monster Mash on October 22 from 12pm to 8pm (raindate October 29).
- 9.42. Public  
Communication  
(ID # [23-1194](#)) Carol Rego submitting comments re: rent stabilization.
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- 9.43. Public Communication (ID # [23-1195](#)) Katherine Kaufmann submitting comments re: Armory building.
- 9.44. Public Communication (ID # [23-1233](#)) Chris Dwan submitting comments re: city lawsuit against Newport Construction for improper removal of trees on Beacon Street.
- 9.45. Public Communication (ID # [23-1250](#)) 18 residents submitting comments re: item #23-1162, a resolution regarding the "Idaho Stop".

## 10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

- 10.1. Order (ID # [23-1297](#)) By Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Mobility work with relevant departments and divisions to install wayfinding signage on the Community Path, including freeway exit-style signage on the Community Path Extension, given that segment's limited access.
- 10.2. Order (ID # [23-1312](#)) By Councilor Wilson and Councilor Davis  
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on plans to expand bicycle parking in the city, with a focus on Davis Square and Union Square, including potentially using intersection daylighting spaces for bike racks.
- 10.3. Order (ID # [23-1308](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Director of the Arts Council and the Director of Economic Development take the steps outlined within, relative to the Armory building.
- 10.4. Order (ID # [23-1309](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Director of Economic Development take the steps described within, relative to the Armory building.
- 10.5. Resolution (ID # [23-1310](#)) By Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Administration report to this Council on the usage of the Armory building by existing tenants, city tenants, and what have been the vacancies.
- 10.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1244](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$61,710 grant that requires a match, from Metro North Regional Employment Board to the Health and Human Services Department for YouthWorks Summer Program.

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- 10.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1264](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$6,285 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Elevator Repair & Maint Account for repairs to the High School elevators.
- 10.8. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1265](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$4,509.75 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Buildings Interior Maint Account for asbestos testing.
- 10.9. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1246](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$3,867.08 using available funds in the Health and Human Services Professional and Technical Services Account for Public Consulting Group for Medicaid billing services.
- 10.10. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1251](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$2,684 using available funds in the Health and Human Services Professional and Technical Services Account for The Throne Depot for portable restrooms.
- 10.11. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1266](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$980 using available funds in the Buildings Fire Alarm Repair & Maint Account for Fire Alarm testing and services.
- 10.12. Mayor's Request (ID # [23-1307](#)) Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Jennifer Tsolas to the Condominium Review Board.
- 10.13. Mayor's Communication (ID # [23-1313](#)) Conveying an update on the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.
- 10.14. Public Event (ID # [23-1315](#)) Council on Aging applying for a Public Event License for Mayor Ballantyne's Senior Picnic on September 14 from 8:30am to 2pm (raindate September 15).
- 10.15. Public Communication (ID # [23-1305](#)) John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5).
- 10.16. Public Communication (ID # [23-1306](#)) Mai Lau, 635 Somerville Avenue LLC, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 627 Somerville Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Mid-Rise 3 (MR3).
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10.17. Public Communication (ID # [23-1311](#)) Jeffrey Maciak submitting comments re: cleaning up Somerville.

**11. LATE ITEMS**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**