



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
LAW DEPARTMENT

February 7, 2018

Honorable Board of Alderman
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Board Order # 204947

Dear Honorable Board Members:

You have asked whether the opening prayer and salute to the flag are required at the beginning of Board of Aldermen meetings.

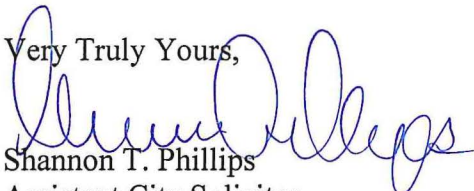
Pursuant to the current City of Somerville *Rules of The Board of Aldermen*, adopted on November 9, 2017, a salute to the flag and prayer are required at the beginning of every meeting.

Rule 31(1) requires that every meeting shall begin with "Call of the meeting, *with a prayer, salute to the Flag of the United States of America* and a call of the roll of members." See Appendix B- Rules of the Board of Aldermen, Order of Business, Rule 31(1).

In my opinion, the Board is not required by any state or federal law to have an opening prayer and/or salute to the flag.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,


Shannon T. Phillips
Assistant City Solicitor

cc: John Long, City Clerk

