



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council

Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 22, 2025

7:00 PM

**City Council Chamber and Remote
Participation**

Published May 20, 2025, 1:00 PM, Revised Published May 22, 2025, 12:15 PM.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZU-7swOXTxavXH0JATGmmw

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1. OPENING CEREMONIES

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| 1.1. | Roll Call
(ID # 25-0997) | Call of the Roll. |
| 1.2. | Remembrances
(ID # 25-0998) | Remembrances. |
| 1.3. | Minutes
(ID # 25-0999) | Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2025. |
| 1.4. | Minutes
(ID # 25-1000) | Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 16, 2025. |

2. CITATIONS

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| 2.1. | Citation
(ID # 25-0990) | By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
Commending Tom Lamar for six years of service as
Chair of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. |
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- 2.2. Citation By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [25-0991](#)) Commending the Kiwanis Club on the auspicious occasion of its 100th anniversary of support to the community.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0951](#)) approximately 38 feet of conduit in Corinthian Road from Utility Pole 261/2 to an approximate point of pickup at 1006 Broadway.
- 3.2. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0954](#)) approximately 54 feet of conduit in Albion Street, from Utility Pole 3/22 to an approximate point of pickup at 156 Albion Street.
- 3.3. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0952](#)) approximately 67 feet of conduit in Stickney Avenue, from Utility Pole 322/2 to an approximate point of pickup at 15 Stickney Avenue.
- 3.4. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0953](#)) approximately 80 feet of conduit in Glenwood Road, from Manhole 7417 to an approximate point of pickup at 72 Glenwood Road.
- 3.5. Grant of Location Eversource applying for a Grant of Location to install
(ID # [25-0955](#)) approximately 160 feet of conduit in Broadway, from Manhole 1922 to an approximate point of pickup at 356 Broadway.
- 3.6. Grant of Location FirstLight Fiber, Inc. applying for a Grant of Location to
(ID # [25-0956](#)) install approximately 168 feet of conduit in Inner Belt Road and 1 new Manhole to a point of pickup at 30 Inner Belt Road.

4. ORDERS, ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS OF MEMBERS

- 4.1. Resolution By Councilor Mbah, Councilor Strezo and Councilor
(ID # [25-0984](#)) Wilson
That the Administration create a Senior Liaison position in the Mayor's Office.
- 4.2. Resolution By Councilor Mbah, Councilor Strezo and Councilor
(ID # [25-0985](#)) Wilson
That the Administration create a Senior Advisory Group to advise on policies impacting seniors in the city.

- 4.3. Communication By Councilor Mbah
(ID # [25-0979](#)) Conveying a report of the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund.
- 4.4. Communication By Councilor Mbah
(ID # [25-0980](#)) Conveying a report of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 4.5. Order By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
(ID # [25-0987](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works provide an update on preventative maintenance plans for all school buildings, and progress on providing the public with tools to view preventative maintenance plans and actions.
- 4.6. Resolution By Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Davis
(ID # [25-0986](#)) That the Administration update this Council on the report and recommendations of the Davis Square Public Safety Working Group.
- 4.7. Order By Councilor Clingan
(ID # [25-0988](#)) That the Director of Mobility install STOP signs on Ten Hills Road at Governor Winthrop Road, making the intersection a four-way stop.
- 4.8. Order By Councilor Clingan and Councilor Wilson
(ID # [25-0989](#)) That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before the Special Committee on School Building Facilities and Maintenance to discuss the recent break-in at the Winter Hill School building and the measures being taken to secure the building.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 5.1. Resolution By Councilor Burnley Jr.
(ID # [25-0908](#)) In support of Head Start.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- 6.A.1. Committee Report Report of the Committee on Finance, meeting on May
(ID # [25-0982](#)) 20, 2025.

- 6.A.2. Order
(ID # [24-1686](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor confirm whether an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund can be created to pay fees associated with gendered document changes and potential court sealing of records associated with such documents.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.3. Communication
(ID # [25-0270](#))
- By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Conveying the cost of changes to identity documents, in support of item #24-1686.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.4. Public
Communication
(ID # [25-0336](#))
- Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition
submitting comments re: item #24-1686, creation of an LGBTQ Legal Services Stabilization Fund.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.5. Order
(ID # [25-0510](#))
- By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Mbah, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Sait, Councilor Scott, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson
That the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management discuss with this Council what strategies and resources are being utilized to bring Somerville's Tannery Brook Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) into compliance with the current and future long-term CSO control plans.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be discharged with no recommendation.
- 6.A.6. Order
(ID # [25-0568](#))
- By Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Housing include a line item contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust's FY 2026 ordinary maintenance budget in order to sustain its funding for affordable housing development and assistance to households facing rent or mortgage arrears.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

- 6.A.7. Order
(ID # [25-0569](#))
- By Councilor Mbah
That the Director of Housing Stability calculate and present a budget proposal for sufficient funding that will enable it to continue its programs of municipal flex funding, legal assistance and related housing search services for residents facing displacement and homeless families and individuals in FY 2026.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.8. Order
(ID # [25-0570](#))
- By Councilor Mbah
That the Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment clarify the situation regarding the federal grant application for composting and, depending on its likely fulfillment, calculate a budget line item to insure that the small-scale pilot program can continue into FY 2026 and expand to more households.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.A.9. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0662](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$583.03 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Fleet Motor Parts and Accessories Account for the purchase of vehicle parts.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.10. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0663](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$270 using available funds in the Department of Public Works R&M Vehicles Account for vehicle inspections.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0664](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$1,137.70 using available funds in the Department of Public Works R&M Parks and Playgrounds Account for irrigation services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.12. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0665](#))
- Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$504 using available funds in the Department of Public Works Administration Police Details Account for police detail services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.13. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0666](#))
- Requesting approval of a transfer of \$5,777 from the Police Overtime Account to the Police Grant Match Account for the FY 2025 Shannon Grant match requirement.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

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| 6.A.14. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0813) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$122,681.25 grant with no new match required, from the Massachusetts Community First Partnership to the Office of Sustainability and Environment for an Energy Advisor and outreach materials.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.15. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0836) | Requesting approval to appropriate \$45,000 from the Street Tree Stabilization Fund for FY 2025 Ash tree treatments.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.16. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0846) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$274,000 grant with no new match required, from the Boston Office of Emergency Management to the Police Department for Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) training.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.17. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0850) | Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$90 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for case management for workers' compensation.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.18. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0852) | Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$30,000 grant that requires a match, from the RIZE Massachusetts Foundation to the Health and Human Services Department for public health vending machines.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.19. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0854) | Requesting the transfer of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Act Undesignated Fund Balance to the Open Space Reserve.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.20. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0855) | Requesting the appropriation of \$200,000 from the Community Preservation Act Fund Open Space Reserve for the design of the Kennedy Schoolyard.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
| 6.A.21. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0857) | Requesting approval to appropriate \$228,000 from the Medicinal Marijuana Stabilization Fund for the salary and fringe of three positions related to youth-serving staff in FY 2026.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved. |
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- 6.A.22.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0860](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$36,000 grant with no new match required, from Department of Environmental Protection to the Department of Public Works for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.23.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0861](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$400,000 from the Department of Public Works Highway Wages Account to the Snow Removal Account.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.24.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0862](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$600,000 from various Department of Public Works Personal Services Accounts to various Department of Public Works Ordinary Maintenance Accounts to fund projected budget shortfalls.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.25.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0863](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$8.87 using available funds in the Police Department Professional and Technical Services Account for managed care services for workers' compensation.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.26.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0873](#)) Requesting approval of a transfer of \$363,000 from the Department of Public Works Grounds Wages Account to the Snow Removal Account.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.27.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0874](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$450,000 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund for the replacement of the Brown School Boiler.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.28.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0875](#)) Requesting approval to appropriate \$350,000 from the Facility Renovation Stabilization Fund to replace the Department of Public Works Water Department Boiler System.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.29.Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0892](#)) Requesting approval to amend the purpose of the Street Tree Stabilization Fund to align with the Tree Preservation Ordinance.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.A.30. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0902](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$11,400 grant with no new match required, from the Department of Fire Services to the Fire Department for fire education for school students and senior residents.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.31. Order
(ID # [25-0905](#)) By Councilor Pineda Neufeld
That the city hereby adopts Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987, An Act Increasing Local Control Over The Annual School Budget.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.
- 6.A.32. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0919](#)) Requesting approval of a lease agreement at 50 Tufts Street.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be withdrawn.
- 6.A.33. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0922](#)) Requesting the appropriation of \$151,502 from the Unreserved Fund Balance ("Free Cash") to the Law Department, Legal Services Account for additional outside legal counsel services.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.B. LAND USE COMMITTEE

- 6.B.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-0969](#)) Report of the Committee on Land Use, meeting in Joint Session with the Planning Board on May 15, 2025.
- 6.B.2. Public
Communication
(ID # [24-1584](#)) Horace-Ward LLC, Bealm Realty, LLC, Delhi Properties, LLC, and Delhi Properties II, LLC requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 11 Horace Street, 5-7, 9, 13, and 15 Ward Street, and 15 and 21 South Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

6.C. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS COMMITTEE

- 6.C.1. Committee Report
(ID # [25-0949](#)) Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters, meeting on May 13, 2025.
- 6.C.2. Ordinance
(ID # [24-1754](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Amending Sections 9-31 through 9-44 of the Code of Ordinances to support the end of wage theft.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved as amended.
- 6.C.3. Mayor's Request
(ID # [25-0864](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Pole Cameras.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be approved.

- 6.C.4. Mayor's Communication (ID # [25-0837](#)) Conveying the updated 2024 Surveillance Technology Annual Report.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be placed on file.

6.D. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE

- 6.D.1. Committee Report (ID # [25-0981](#)) Report of the Committee on Traffic and Parking, meeting on May 19, 2025.
- 6.D.2. Order (ID # [25-0647](#)) By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Director of Mobility speak with this Council regarding the Safe Streets Ordinance 2025 annual report.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.
- 6.D.3. Order (ID # [25-0927](#)) By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Strezo
That the Director of Parking consider adding additional handicapped parking spots on Washington Street by the Cobble Hill senior center.
RECOMMENDED: Recommended to be marked work completed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS OF THE MAYOR

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0967](#)) Requesting approval of a Substation Easement near 51 Prospect Street for NStar Electric Company.
- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0948](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend a \$257,540 grant with no new match required, from Eversource Energy to the Engineering Division for permanent resurfacing and restoration of various streets.
- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0971](#)) Requesting approval to accept and expend an \$82,357.50 grant with no new match required, from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence to the Council on Aging for social, educational, and physical wellness programming.
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0903](#)) Requesting approval to accept and use a gift with an approximate value of \$5,399 from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to the Fire Department for improving rescue capabilities during a rail incident.
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-0785](#)) Requesting approval to pay prior year invoices totaling \$575.16 using available funds in the Parks & Recreation Department Office Supplies Account for cork boards.

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| 7.6. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0983) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Michael Sullivan to the position of Firefighter. |
| 7.7. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0992) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ayerim Decena to the Commission for Women. |
| 7.8. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0993) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Ashley Guevara to the Commission for Women. |
| 7.9. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0994) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Bobbi Van Gilder to the Commission for Women. |
| 7.10. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0995) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Danielle Dees to the Commission for Women. |
| 7.11. | Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-0996) | Requesting confirmation of the appointment of Patty Thistle to the Commission for Women. |
| 7.12. | Mayor's
Communication
(ID # 25-0972) | Proclaiming May 2025 to be Jewish American Heritage Month. |
| 7.13. | Withdrawn
(ID # 25-0897) | Withdrawn. |
| 7.14. | Withdrawn
(ID # 25-0932) | Withdrawn. |

8. COMMUNICATIONS OF CITY OFFICERS

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| 8.1. | Officer's
Communication
(ID # 25-0966) | Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management conveying progress on the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan, related Water & Sewer capital investments, and Stormwater fee strategies. |
| 8.2. | Officer's
Communication
(ID # 25-0968) | City Clerk conveying Block Party Licenses issued. |

9. NEW BUSINESS

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| 9.1. | License
(ID # 25-0957) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, Caruso & McGovern Construction Inc. |
| 9.2. | License
(ID # 25-0958) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, D'Allessandro Corp. |
| 9.3. | License
(ID # 25-0959) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, Environic Solutions Inc. |

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| 9.4. | License
(ID # 25-0960) | Renewing Drainlayer's License, Hercules C+G Drain Inc. |
| 9.5. | License
(ID # 25-0961) | Renewing Extended Operating Hours License, Papa John's, 622 Somerville Avenue. |
| 9.6. | License
(ID # 25-0962) | Renewing Garage License, MAC, 53 Russell Street. |
| 9.7. | License
(ID # 25-0963) | Renewing Livery License, Mass Cab, 45 Endicott Avenue. |
| 9.8. | License
(ID # 25-0964) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, Early Bird Transportation, LLC, Med. #49. |
| 9.9. | License
(ID # 25-0965) | Renewing Taxi Medallion License, V.I.N.L. Transportation, Inc., Med. #65. |
| 9.10. | Public
Communication
(ID # 25-0973) | 8 individuals submitting comments re: Israel. |
| 9.11. | Public
Communication
(ID # 25-0974) | Rebecca Lopes-Filho submitting comments re: school budget. |
| 9.12. | Public
Communication
(ID # 25-0975) | Sublime Systems submitting comments re: items #24-1460, #25-0128, #25-0129, and #25-0131, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for laboratory, research and development, and arts uses. |
| 9.13. | Public
Communication
(ID # 25-0976) | Bill Valetta submitting comments re: item #25-0085, an Order regarding zoning for bonuses for additional affordable housing and other enumerated community benefits. |
| 9.14. | Public
Communication
(ID # 25-0977) | Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee submitting comments re: McGrath Boulevard. |
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10. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS | | |
| 10.1. | Communication
(ID # 25-1004) | By Councilor Clingan
Conveying the report and recommendations of the PILOT Advisory Task Force. |

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| 10.2. Order
(ID # 25-1012) | By Councilor McLaughlin and Councilor Clingan
That the Director of Mobility update this Council on recent changes to the #90 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) bus route and the reasons for those changes. |
| 10.3. Order
(ID # 25-1014) | By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Director of Mobility place a speed bump on Pinckney Street and consider the Neighborway potential of this street. |
| 10.4. Order
(ID # 25-1013) | By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works include East Broadway for city plantings and greenery. |
| 10.5. Order
(ID # 25-1015) | By Councilor McLaughlin
That the Commissioner of Public Works address the leaning electric poles on Alston Street. |
| 10.6. Order
(ID # 25-1017) | By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor provide an opinion on whether this Council can restrict the use of autonomous driving testing within city limits, either through an outright ban or through requirement of a special permit. |
| 10.7. Order
(ID # 25-1018) | By Councilor Burnley Jr. and Councilor Scott
That the City Solicitor provide an opinion on whether an individual within a vehicle or the autonomous vehicle company would be responsible if issued a citation during autonomous driving testing. |
| 10.8. Resolution
(ID # 25-1019) | By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That this Council consider whether to ban or restrict autonomous vehicle testing locally, if permitted by law. |
| 10.9. Resolution
(ID # 25-1016) | By Councilor Burnley Jr.
That the Mayor disclose to this Council any communication with Waymo or its parent company Google regarding autonomous driving tests within city limits. |
| 10.10. Resolution
(ID # 25-1020) | By Councilor Burnley Jr.
Recognizing May 2025 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. |
| 10.11. Mayor's Request
(ID # 25-1023) | Requesting approval of a lease agreement at 50 Tufts Street. |
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- 10.12. Mayor's Communication
(ID # [25-1022](#)) Conveying a memorandum regarding item #25-0905.
- 10.13. License
(ID # [25-1006](#)) New Garage License, 599 Somerville Ventures LLC, 599 Somerville Avenue, 33 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.
- 10.14. Public Event
(ID # [25-1008](#)) Communications and Community Engagement Department applying for a Public Event License for Slice of the City Extension on May 27 and June 17 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.
- 10.15. Public Event
(ID # [25-1007](#)) Republic Fitness applying for a Public Event License for Republic Fitness Summer Series on June 5, June 24, July 9 and July 22 from 4:30pm to 7pm.
- 10.16. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1009](#)) Darci Hanna and Christopher Spicer Hankle submitting comments re: school budget.
- 10.17. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1010](#)) Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets submitting comments re: McGrath Boulevard.
- 10.18. Public Communication
(ID # [25-1011](#)) Ruth Stern submitting comments re: ceasefire.

11. ADJOURNMENT