



# City of Somerville, Massachusetts

## Public Health and Public Safety Committee

### Regular Meeting Agenda

---

Monday, January 23, 2023

6:00 PM

Virtual

---

(Posted online: 1/19/23 at 8:30 AM)

Others present: Charles Breen – Chief Fire Engineer, Justin Kates – Director of Emergency Management, Patricia Contente – Director of Community Outreach, Karin Carroll – Director of Health and Human Services, Nick Antanavica – Superintendent of Inspectional Services, Ellen Shachter – Director of Housing Stability, Neha Singh – Legislative Liaison, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place virtually via GoToWebinar and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Kelly and adjourned at 7:13 PM on a roll call vote of 3 in favor (Councilors McLaughlin, Davis and Kelly), none against and none absent.

#### Roll Call

1. Committee Minutes (ID # [23-0112](#)) **Approved:** Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2022.

#### COVID

2. Order (ID # [23-0094](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly, Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Strezo and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Health and Human Services share with this Council any plans to encourage or require indoor masking in light of the recent COVID-19 surge.
3. Order (ID # [22-1767](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Pineda Neufeld  
That the Director of Health and Human Services report to this Council on COVID and flu vaccination clinics and strategies to increase opportunities for residents to access vaccines.
4. Order (ID # [23-0081](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Board of Health deliver its annual report to this City Council in January, in compliance with Section 6-20 of the Code of Ordinances, with emphasis on the work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### Emergency Response

5. Resolution (ID # [22-1934](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly  
That the Mayor designate a central point of contact for providing on-site response for mass displacement events such as fires and floods, and coordinating efforts to assist impacted residents.
6. Order (ID # [22-1933](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott and Councilor Kelly  
That the Director of Emergency Management, the Director of the Office of Housing Stability, the Director of Health and Human Services, the Chief Fire Engineer, and other relevant staff, discuss with this Council the resources and support services provided to residents impacted by a disaster or crisis such as fire or flood.
7. Order (ID # [22-1932](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Scott, Councilor Burnley Jr., City Council Organizational Meeting, Councilor Clingan, Councilor Davis, Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Gomez Mouakad, Councilor Kelly, Councilor McLaughlin, Councilor Strezo and Councilor Wilson  
That the Chief Fire Engineer inform the appropriate Ward Councilor and Councilors-at-Large, as soon as safely practicable, when a major fire has occurred in their Ward, including the number of residents impacted.

Housing

8. Order (ID # [22-1739](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** 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.
9. Order (ID # [22-1359](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** 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.
10. Order (ID # [22-1757](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Kelly and Councilor Davis  
That the ARPA Specialist update this Council on the City's plans to use ARPA funding to address chronic homelessness.

11. Order (ID # [22-1307](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a written report on the number of calls for service related to un-housed individuals, the nature of those calls, and the number directed toward or responded to in collaboration with the Somerville Homeless Coalition.
12. Order (ID # [22-1761](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Burnley Jr.  
That the Chief of Police work with the Office of Housing Stability to submit a written report answering the questions contained within.
13. Order (ID # [22-1055](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Burnley Jr., Councilor Davis and Councilor Wilson  
That the Chief of Police deliver to this Council, a written report of the Police Department's protocol for addressing encampments of un-housed individuals, including any resources that are offered, and whether those individuals are transported and to where.

Safety

14. Order (ID # [22-0058](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Kelly and Councilor Scott  
That the Director of Inspectional Services discuss with this Council how to increase reliability and frequency of enforcement of public health violations in the City.
15. Order (ID # [22-1445](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Gomez Mouakad and Councilor Wilson  
That the Director of Inspectional Services report on the status of the enforcement of Section 11-111 of the Code of Ordinances, regarding Registration and maintenance of vacant property.
16. Order (ID # [22-0959](#)) **Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Clingan, Councilor Pineda Neufeld and Councilor Gomez Mouakad  
That the Chief of Police provide this Council with a list of confirmed shootings between April 2018 and April 2022.

Housekeeping

17. Order  
(ID # [22-2123](#))
- Reported out of Committee:** By Councilor Wilson, Councilor Pineda Neufeld, Councilor Kelly and Councilor Burnley Jr. That the Director of Health and Human Services and the Superintendent of Water and Sewer update this Council on the feasibility of partnering with a vendor to conduct COVID-19 wastewater testing.