



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

City Council Legislative Matters Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

6:00 PM

This meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by Chair Scott at 6:02pm and adjourned at 8:07pm on a roll call vote of 5 in favor (Councilors Davis, Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Strezo, and Scott), 0 opposed, and 0 absent.

Others present: Others Present: Colin Ziegler – Director of Public Health, Matt Zaino – Deputy Director of Inspectional Services, Cindy Amara – City Solicitor, Amanda Nagim-Williams – Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jon Hillman – Public Safety for All Project Manager, Ed Bean – Director of Finance, Madalyn Letellier – Assistant City Clerk, Legislative Services.

Roll Call

Present: Ward Six City Councilor Lance L. Davis, City Councilor At Large Wilfred N. Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Jefferson Thomas (J.T.) Scott

1. Committee Minutes
(ID # [26-1385](#))

Approval of the Minutes of the Legislative Matters Committee Meeting of September 8, 2026.

RESULT: **ACCEPTED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

2. Committee Minutes
(ID # [26-1449](#))

Approval of the Minutes of the Legislative Matters Committee Meeting of September 15, 2026.

RESULT: **ACCEPTED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

3. Public Hearing

- 3.1. Mayor's Communication (ID # [26-1407](#)) Conveying an update on the Civilian Oversight policy development process.

Chair Scott opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM.

There being no speakers, Chair Scott closed the public hearing at 6:07 PM. The public comment period will remain open until Friday October 16th, 2026, and can be submitted to publiccomments@somervillema.gov.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

4. Ordinances

- 4.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [25-1822](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances to establish a Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure.

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Nagim-Williams shared the administration's plan to solidify the short-term rental and vacant properties ordinance before providing a substantive update. IGA Director Nagim-Williams spoke to the goal to ensure the scope and enforcement of the ordinances are well defined before bringing them before the Council. Councilor Ewen-Campen requested a more defined timeline, IGA Director Nagim-Williams did not have a concrete timeline but will follow-up. In response to Chair Scott IGA Director Nagim-Williams confirmed the working group that was engaged in the spring has not been re-activated but internal conversations continue.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

- 4.2. Resolution (ID # [26-0240](#))

By Councilor Link

That the Director of Inspectional Services review the rules for short-term rentals and inform this Council what enforcement tools are available and how the city may take action against known violations.

Deputy Director Ziegler spoke about the challenges and loopholes in the current short-term rental (STR) regulations, stating that the city is demoing enforcement tools and preparing to start a procurement bidding process. To improve tracking and reporting, the city has collaborated with 311 constituent services and the web team to track reported illegal listings. In response to Councilor Ewen-Campen, when an illegal STR is discovered, the city can revoke its operating license and issue fines, which can escalate to a property lien if the owner fails to register. Currently, the city tracks 113 active licenses through the CitizenServe platform, and operators are required to post these licenses on-site. The city has previously implemented STR identification software in 2021, the system became ineffective as hosts

began hiding addresses and images to lie to inspectors. Deputy Director Ziegler shared potential plans to integrate police reports into the 311 system, while also looking for more accurate and up to date software continues to get explored.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

4.3. Ordinance
 (ID # [26-1023](#))

By Councilor Ewen-Campen, Councilor Wheeler, Councilor Mbah and Councilor Link

That Chapter 2, Article VIII, Division 1 of the Code of Ordinances be amended as detailed within.

Councilor Ewen-Campen introduced an amendment to item #26-1023, which was revised after receiving public and staff feedback to prevent city funds from being spent on companies with direct, ongoing, and knowing involvement in specified objectionable conduct, while providing an exemption for sole proprietors.

Chair Scott moved to replace the document *Ethical Procurement Ordinance* attached to item #26-1023 with the document *Legislative Matters - 2026-10-13 Amendment (with 26-1023)* attached to tonight's agenda. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 4 in favor (Councilor Davis, Mbah, Ewen-Campen, Scott). 1 opposed (Councilor Strezo).

Throughout the discussion, Councilor Davis asked clarifying questions regarding how the amendments aligned with public comments, leading to a long discussion about which companies should be restricted, where to draw the line, and how implementation would work. The conversation also focused heavily on legal and financial implementation, particularly regarding subsection f's impact on city procurement. Councilor Strezo raised concerns about the ordinance and questioned Solicitor Amara regarding the legality of including lists produced by religious groups and asked if there was concern with the city approving the language as is currently written. Solicitor Amara expressed caution about relying on any external lists rather than specific, objective criteria, warning of future challenges regarding their accuracy, maintenance, and legitimacy. In response to Chair Scott Solicitor Amara did say the language in front of the committee does not change any previous opinions given by the law department. The discussion concluded with a financial review, a request regarding economic impacts from Director Bean, and questions directed at the Law Department concerning the

verification process in subsection f and the interpretation of single-member entities in section a.

RESULT: **KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

- 4.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1274](#)) Requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 1-11(b) of the Code of Ordinances to update enforcement personnel.

Chair Scott restated the request to clean up the zoning violations and clean up text on enforcement fines.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE APPROVED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

5. Body Camera Policies

- 5.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1272](#)) Requesting approval of the Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy for Body Worn Cameras.

This item was discussed with item #26-1273. Public Safety Manager Hillman confirmed Councilor Davis's recap that revisions were approved from the meeting in July with additional feedback from the community. The administration's plan is to hear any additional thoughts, finalize updates from Councilor Hardt, and submit finalized items at the next City Council meeting.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 5.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1273](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.

This item was discussed with item #26-1272.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

6. To be marked Work Complete

- 6.1. Public Communication (ID # [26-0478](#)) Urban Forestry Committee submitting comments re: anti-coagulant rodenticides.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.2. Public Communication (ID # [26-0475](#)) Digital Fourth submitting comments re: Surveillance Technology Annual Report.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.3. Public Communication (ID # [26-1006](#)) 89 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding Police Body-Worn Cameras, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.4. Order (ID # [26-1027](#)) By Councilor Scott
That the City Clerk provide the procedure followed upon a Mayoral veto of any measure approved by this Council.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.5. Officer's Communication (ID # [26-1034](#)) Chief of Police conveying information regarding item #26-0378, a request of the Mayor for acceptance of a grant for a body-worn camera program.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 6.6. Public Communication (ID # [26-1185](#)) 74 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding the proposed ethical procurement ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Charter.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE MARKED WORK COMPLETED**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

7. To be Placed on File: (old STIR submissions)

- 7.1. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0485](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Crime Tracer.

Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 7.2. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0484](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.

Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 7.3. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0830](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for CrimeTracer.
- Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
- AYE:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- 7.4. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1000](#)) Requesting approval of the Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy for Body Worn Cameras.
- Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
- AYE:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- 7.5. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-0999](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.
- Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
- AYE:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott
- 7.6. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1189](#)) Requesting approval of the Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy for Body Worn Cameras.
- Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.
- RESULT:** **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**
- AYE:** Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

- 7.7. Mayor's Request (ID # [26-1192](#)) Requesting approval of the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Body Worn Cameras.

Chair Scott stated revised versions were submitted to the Council and approved.

RESULT: **RECOMMENDED TO BE PLACED ON FILE**

AYE: Ward Six City Councilor Davis, City Councilor At Large Mbah, Ward Three City Councilor Ewen-Campen, City Councilor At Large Strezo and Ward Two City Councilor Scott

Referenced Documents:

- Legislative Matters - 2026-10-13 Amendment (with 26-1023)
- Legislative Matters - 2026-10-13 Revised BWC STIR EH (with 26-1273)
- Legislative Matters - 2026-10-13 Revised BWC Technology-Specific Surveillance Use Policy EH (with 26-1272)