

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – December 5, 2014 Meeting
Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Room 209, Portland, Maine

Present:

Mayor Michael Brennan; Councilor Edward Suslovic; Councilor Nicholas Mavodones; Councilor David Brennerman; Senator Justin Alford; Representative Richard Farnsworth; Representative Diane Russell; Representative Peter Stuckey; Representative Erik Jorgensen; Director of Health and Human Services Dawn Stiles; Director of Planning and Urban Development Jeff Levine; Director of Social Services Robert Duranleau; Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk; and Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta.

Started Meeting at 8:35 a.m.

1. Revisions to state subdivision law to clarify that multifamily in one building is not a subdivision.
How to amend? Can Jeff Levine draft a proposal? Let Maine Municipal weigh in re: multi-family building; dividing; creates a subdivision; permissive legislation rather than mandate.
2. Delegated authority over fire code from the State Fire Marshall to the City
State Fire Marshall/Code/Fire=Review
Uniform State code? City enforces ADA within City boundaries.
Expedited review at the Court level – court back log – Talk with MMA about this one.
3. **Expansion of the Narcan** legislation to allow for standing orders
Law does not currently allow for this; need to call each time needed, because standing orders are not specifically allowed for each time used. Dick Farnsworth will get recommendations language of amendment.
4. **MaineCare expansion.** Supported by Legislative Committee; most likely will submit this Legislation this Session.
5. **Amend the Civil Rights Act** re: Buffer Zone
Among other things allow Planned Parenthood to seek an Order restricting individuals. Changes to the Maine law face political difficulties; but still legislation should be brought forward.
6. City cannot say “no” to applicants for GA under current State Law. But the State has a cap on services when certain funds run out. City could seek an Amendment to General Assistance that permits the City of Portland to cap services when certain funds run out (similar to what is allowed to the Maine DHHS, which is now depleted its fund for TANF set aside for asylum seekers, most of whom appear to live in Portland). Usually Portland Legislative Delegation opposed this type of legislation in the past. Alternatively, Maine Municipal Association and

the Mayor's Coalition are now supporting a takeover of General Assistance by the State.

7. Legislation requiring that any pharmacy etc. that dispenses needles in quantity must also provide return/disposal receptacles. Issues have arisen with discarded needles in Bayside. This seems appropriate.
 8. **Local Option Tax** or City sales tax; or/and income tax (comes up in particular because of the General Assistance situation) Representative Diane Russell suggested a Circuit Breaker City Program to help with the impact of a local option income tax. Plus a Fire Tax. MMA supports this; general revenue into the City; taxing for this service that is provided is an alternative way to generate revenue in the City.
 9. **Amend Dec. Judgment Act** re: timing of appeals of development or project proposals. The Mayor wants to be able to make appeals more quickly. Discuss with MMA further.
 10. **KeepME Home Initiative.** House Speaker Mark Eves, sponsor. \$65 M. bond to build senior housing which, along with other private and public resources, will construct 1,000 energy-efficient, affordable homes for seniors in 40 locations around the state. The bond is one part of other proposals, including property tax relief for older Maine residents through an increase in the state's Property Tax Credit, and increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for in-home care workers. Delegation supports this.
 11. **School Construction** (a) Longfellow School is number 18 on the school construction list. Mayor would like this project funded like the Hall School.
(b) Teacher retirement contribution, In FY2015 the General Purpose Aid to Education (GPA) increase ends; and so the cost will increase for Portland Public Schools (~\$1.3 million for the City).
(c) Charter Schools. Fund at the State Level (not City level); MMA says it should be a line item. (\$300,000 for the City right now).
(d) Pre-K. AG said City has to pay for this re: Charter Schools because we offer it.
 12. **Marijuana Legalization Bill.** Rep. Russell is submitting this legislation. She wants it to cover funding of schools.
 13. **Bonds.** Discuss at next meeting Intermodal bonds; etc. and **State Budget.**
- C. Will request preference for date of Next Meeting, either Dec. 19 or Dec. 22, and set date according to response.