

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Agenda Agenda**
November 1, 2022



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

To join the meeting, click <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/87377216395>

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Meeting minutes

- a. Draft Minutes from the October 25, 2022 Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting

III. Legislative Discussion

- a. Update on Emergency Shelter/Public Health Challenges (City Staff)
- b. Discussion: Advocacy Priorities re: Emergency Shelter/Public Health Challenges

IV. November Meeting Schedule

V. Adjournment

**Legislative/Nominating
Committee Meeting Agenda
Minutes
October 25, 2022**



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

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I. Call to Order

Chair April Fournier called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Danielle West (Interim City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kristen Dow (Director of Health & Human Services), Aaron Geyer (Social Services Administrator), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, Representative Barb Wood, Representative Ed Crockett, Representative Sam Zager, Representative Grayson Lookner, Representative Michael Brennan, Mufalo Chitam (Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

III. Discussion: Shelter for Asylum Seekers / Mothers and Newborns

Danielle West and Kristen Dow introduced the topic of discussion; Kristen Dow explained that there are at least six pregnant asylum-seeking individuals in the Oxford Street Shelter, and no coordinated plan to rehome these individuals once they give birth, as the family shelter is over capacity. Mufalo Chitam discussed a proposed discharge plan for these individuals, and explained that there are at least 17 pregnant people in hotels managed by the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition. Mufalo Chitam also suggested providing preventative kits, initial checkups, immunizations, and health education to asylum seeking families, indicating that this sort of programming had been provided in the past.

Kristen Dow also laid out three asks: Statewide coordination of asylum seeker response, continuation of Emergency Rental Assistance funding, and guidance from General Assistance that would tell municipalities that they can go over the maximum benefit beyond 30 days.

The Portland Delegation asked for a memo outlining these asks. The Delegation also discussed sending a letter from the delegation to the Governor to indicate broad support for proactively dealing with this issue.

IV. Other Business

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from September 27, 2022

Mayor Kate Snyder made a motion to Approve the minutes from the September 27, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilor Pious Ali, vote (3-0)

V. Adjournment

Mayor Kate Snyder made a motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Pious Ali, vote (3-0)