



**Legislative Committee
Meeting
September 14, 2020**

AGENDA

I. Connecting via Zoom

- a. On Monday, September 14, 2020, at 9:00 am, the Legislative Committee will conduct a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403-A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day.

For public comment, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be un-muted by the host when it is time for public comment. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89324173875>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13017158592,,89324173875# or +13126266799,,89324173875#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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Webinar ID: 893 2417 3875

II. Call to Order

III. Approval of minutes

- a. Minutes from June 22, 2020 Meeting

IV. Update re: Mayors Coalition

V. City Manager Update

- a. Letter re: cruise industry

VI. Meeting Schedule

VII. Adjournment



Legislative Committee June 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The June 22, 2020 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 9:00 AM on Zoom.

I. Attendance/Introductions

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor Jill Duson, Mayor Kate Snyder, City Manager Jon P. Jennings, Danielle West-Chuhta (Corporation Counsel), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Dena Libner (Assistant to the City Manager), Rep. Erik Jorgensen, Rep. Michael Brennan, Rep. Ed Crockett, Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross, Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Schur).

II. Signature Gathering: Update & Discussion

Danielle West-Chuhta and Kathy Jones presented a joint memo to Committee members regarding gathering signatures electronically and at the polls on July 14, 2020.

Councilor Ali asked Corporation Counsel to draft a recommendation to the Mayor that a special meeting of the Council be held August 31, 2020 in order to give petitioners more time to gather signatures.

III. Discussion with Portland Deletion to Augusta: Revenue Sharing

Rep. Jorgensen shared the Administration recently announced that they plan to use funds received from the federal government to backfill the unemployment trust fund, which was on track run out of funding by September. The theme of a recent Appropriations Committee Meeting was social services, including the production of meals to homeless individuals

and how organizations have changed their operations related to meal delivery in response to COVID-19.

Rep. Brennan shared that \$13M in CARES funding had been set aside by the State for municipalities to work on education, business interaction, and local operations related to COVID-19, and that municipalities were encouraged to apply for that grant funding.

IV. Adjournment

Councilor Duson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.

RE: CDC-2020-0087

The city of Portland, Maine, relies heavily on waterborne tourism and all components of its related activity as a significant contributor to our local and regional economy.

The cruise industry has played a historical role in creating opportunities for a host of waterfront and inland based businesses, which is extremely important in our desire to support and energize diverse economic activity. As we have experienced with COVID-19, the loss of even one sector of our tourism community delivers hardships that have a vast economic effect that will inflict financial devastation for months and years to come.

We realize the ramifications of the continued No Sail Order on our waterfront operations and on everyone who works for small and medium-sized businesses that benefit from cruise activity. Maine tourism is primarily seasonal during the spring through fall and presents less fortune during the winter months. The vibrance of our cruise season often provides financial security for hundreds of our stakeholders through the winter months.

The cruise industry can control its environment in more detail than any other travel product on the market. Having been a partner to the cruise industry for decades, we are aware of the industry's participation in the Vessel Sanitation Program and their maintenance of strict health & safety practices. We applaud their planning process with public health and medical professionals providing guidance and oversight during protocol development.

We urge you to support the cruise industry in their determination of how they will strive to maintain safe conditions on board their vessels for passengers and crew.

The vibrance of the cruise industry is connected directly to essential jobs, business survival, and personal livelihood of thousands of people in our city and state. We look forward to seeing the creation of approved plans and implementation of new protocols so that cruise can safely resume.

Respectfully submitted,

JPJ

Cc: Office of Senator Susan M. Collins
Office of Senator Angus S. King
Office of Congresswoman Chellie Pingree