



**Legislative Committee  
January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

The January 5, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Council Nick Mavodones, Mayor Kate Snyder, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 21, 2020 and January 5, 2021, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 4-0.

Kate Knox presented a new bills report to inform the Committee of new bills to consider whether they would like to track their progress throughout the session. She also confirmed that this document, along with a tracking report, would be presented to the Committee weekly for inclusion in their regular meeting.

Staff was asked to collect feedback from the City Clerk regarding LD 24 (An Act Regarding Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death).

Committee members asked that LD 32 (An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings) be added to the tracking report.

Staff was asked to collect feedback on LD 37 (An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers

and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program) from Corporation Council and Finance regarding any impact on the City budget.

Staff was asked to collect feedback from Corporation Counsel regarding LD 39 (An Act To Remove the Plastic Bag Ban).

Committee members discussed the priorities memo submitted by City staff. They clarified that, regarding staff priorities of securing funding for a local/regional shelter and police station relocation, they may be able to try to secure funding for those capital projects if a bond issue comes out but would not pursue them as legislative priorities.

Committee members discussed Police Department priorities, including legislation to require Maine BMV to obtain and include next of kin or close contact information on driver license and state identification applications, as well as legislation to require Maine BMV to obtain and include a phone number for driver license applicants and vehicle registrants.

Councilor Fournier explained her concerns related to security data. She said her research had shown that no states in New England or out west were supportive of the national campaign by To Inform Families First to obtain and include next of kin or close contact information. In addition, she said that there had been incidents of law enforcement officials misusing the database for personal gain.

Committee staff requested that the Police Department provide additional information on the reasons for their request at the following meeting.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the City staff priorities list, excluding the public safety and shelter funding items as well as the legislation related to doxing, and clarified that the Committee expected additional information related to the Police Department priorities at the next meeting. Mayor Snyder seconded, vote 4-0.

The Committee discussed the development of a 2021 Work Plan. Staff requested that a draft copy be distributed to them by Friday, January 15.

Councilor Fournier requested that Bernstein Shur track any legislative action regarding the upcoming expiration of the moratorium on rents, rent

protections, and eviction protections related to COVID-19.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.