



Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes April 20, 2021

The April 20, 2021, remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:02 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Fournier, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Frank Clark (Police Chief), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 13, 2021, seconded by Councilor Fournier. Councilor Fournier proposed an amendment to the minutes in the section of LD 1278 to correct that Councilor Ali strongly supports the bill and recommends testimony in support of LD 1278. Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Councilor Fournier, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote 3-0.

Chief Clark provided the committee with his feedback on **LD 1043** (*An Act Concerning the Unannounced Execution of Search Warrants*), which he supports; **LD 1127** (*An Act To Prohibit the Use of "No-knock" Warrants*), which he opposes; and **LD 1171** (*An Act To Curtail No-knock Warrants*), which he supports, but has questions about its practical application.

Mayor Snyder said that it sounds that the Chief is generally supportive of restrictions and asked the Chief for his thoughts about whether such changes are better made at a local or state level. Chief Clark said he prefers having the discretion to make the changes locally. He added that the City has been involved with two no-knock warrants in the last 18 months, both of which were MDEA warrants.

Mayor Snyder and Councilor Fournier expressed a desire to spend more time reviewing the above bills and staff feedback.

Kate Knox informed the committee about upcoming public hearings for **LD 50** (*An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless*) and

LD 175 (*An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters*). Mr. Jennings expressed that both bills are a priority for the City and that they will work with Kate Knox to prepare testimony for both bills.

Kate Knox proceeded to review the list of new bills with the Committee. Regarding **LD 1478** (*An Act To Decriminalize Homelessness*), Mayor Snyder said she likes the idea of positive intervention but worries about the requirement of substance abuse or mental health intervention having to happen before we have the opportunity to respond to something that may be an illegal act. She is disinclined to support the bill at this time because she worries that an illegal act will have the opportunity to escalate beyond what is safe. City laws and ordinances need to be enforced parallel to mental health and substance abuse support.

Councilor Fournier would like to have Chief Clark present for a larger discussion of **LD 1478** (*An Act To Decriminalize Homelessness*). Mr. Jennings expressed his disapproval of **LD 1478**, and said the proposal of the creation of a two-tier system of justice is problematic.

Councilor Ali requested information regarding **LD 987** (*An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects*). Chris Feeney confirmed that no hearing has been scheduled, and Mr. Jennings indicated staff's strong support.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.