



**City of Portland, Maine
Public Safety / Health & Human Services Committee
October 13, 2015**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance:

Chair Councilor Suslovic, Councilor Costa, Councilor Brenerman;
Councilor Duson

City Staff Attendance:

Michael Sauschuck, Police Chief; Adam Lee, corporation
counsel; Richard Bianculli, Neighborhood prosecutor; David
Jackson, Acting Fire Chief; Keith Gautreau, Assistant Fire Chief;
Richard Andrews, Fire Electrician;

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Meeting Called to Order at 5:35pm

Chair Suslovic moved to accept minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #2: Health and Human Services Department Updates (communication only)

Dawn Stiles provided an overview of the back-up material for this item to include a \$500k continuation of the defending childhood project; Apothecary by design is donating 1000 flu vaccines this year in place of vaccines typically free from the state; 71 permanent housing placements are completed; and the family shelter is down 35% for intakes. A short discussion was had regarding the success at the health and human services department. The Chair would like to point out the hiring freeze did impact staff's ability to find permanent housing and asked how we can keep up with housing if the numbers of folks coming from elsewhere are increasing. Dawn noted those numbers are actually low right now and that HHS is working with other municipalities to make connections in advance of homelessness. The Chair pointed out the GA numbers are moving in a favorable direction and would like to communicate that to change public perception of general assistance in Portland. A short discussion of homelessness, drugs and general assistance was had and Steve Hirschon from 18 Hanover Street was permitted to speak and said the numbers don't seem to go down and thought it may be weather related (summer).

Agenda Item #4 Tour Company Licensing Ordinance Amendment (action item)

This item was taken out of order at the request of staff to accommodate a staff member who had presentations in two committees in one evening.

Adam Lee provided an overview of the process and who was involved with the discussion. Rich Bianculli went over the topic of inspections and items in the memo provided in back-up materials including some information regarding previous licensing of motor vehicles and this application at the jetport and noted tour companies in the area were in support of licensing.

The Chair asked to change section 30-99 to include code enforcement officers and constables.

Public comment on this item was opened at 6:30pm.

Twain Brayden, representative of the Portland Discovery Tours spoke in support of the proposal and supports language similar to restaurants with regard to a 65 foot buffer zone.

Public comment on this item closed at 6:34pm.

Staff suggested not supporting a 65 foot rule at this time. Councilor Costa asked how long staff would need to evaluate effectiveness of this based on seasons. Adam said the end of next summer would suffice.

Councilor Costa moved to edit 30-99 to include the city manager or designee, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously 4-0.

Councilor Costa moved to forward this item to the council now instead of waiting and entire season, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously 4-0. The committee asked staff to come back with a review of fixed based operations.

Quick update from Dawn Stiles

Dawn updated the committee to let them know that refugee services lost two significant federal grants recently and a 3rd is at risk in the coming year and this division operates on 4 grants. Two case managers have been lost, half a project coordinator and ¾ of an executive assistant. She is working with the city manager's office on moving forward. Councilor Costa recommended a communication be sent to the full council.

Agenda Item # 3 Municipal Fire Alarm System

Assistant Chief Keith Gautreau provided an update of the back-up material and Richard Andrews, Fire Electrician provided a detailed explanation of the need to migrate to a wireless master box system. The overall cost and timeline were presented and the committee heard the urgency needed to move forward with the migration and agreed to a compliance date of January 1, 2017.

With no further business to attend to the committee adjourned at 7:24pm