

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Government Services co-posted with Committee of the Whole
met remotely via zoom on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.
for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on
February 1, 2022 at 2:31 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE:

none

SUBJECT(S)

#25 – Reviewing Sec. 31A of the City Council Rules and Orders relative to City Council Liaisons for Salem Community
Organizaitons

All members of committee present
Councillors McCarthy, Morsillo, vickie caldwell

VC - Advisory boards, some have liaisons some don't

Non profits, such as salem united. This is outside the box in terms of our role as councillors. We don't coordinate as a city with non profits. This may not serve the board, as it creates conflict of interest. Non profits should invite

Caution against council placing members on boards

City is prevented from providing public benefits to non profits. If the institution of the council gets involved in non profits it could create issues

JC - I don't beleve it appropriate for council to apppoint liaisons to non profits. WE all are already liaisons, it's difficult to attend everything we would like to. Salem Human Rights Coalition has many liaisons. Impossible to do this in an equitable way
BM - 14 years ago I was liaison to the SRA, you are the go to person, you don't sit on that board. Liaison is the appointee of the city council president only.

LM - My experience is divergent, some involve me others don't.

LM - If we are considering updates, we should consider clarifying the relationships between boards and liaisons

JC - Move that we as a committee should not consider liaisons for

TH should we update Ordinance

VC - I think the way it's written now has enough flexibility, internally the council may want to keep track

AV - motion to discharge from committee, councillor cohen seconds

CW - I'm in agreement, there is no other way to do this

LM - Do we want to discharge this or specifically eliminating non profits or outside agencies

CW - Councillor McClain makes an important point, ensure we are distinguishing between a rep of the body vs our own personal involvement. I would hesitate to add exclusionary language

JC - Agreement, non profits shouldn't need liaison. Councillors will help if non profits reach out. There are some issues if we do this

CW Yes
Cohen Yes
McClain Yes
Varella Yes
Hapworth Yes

Doreen Wade - 62 Frederick St Dracut, MA

Voted on and approved by mayor and solicitor that Salem United have a liaison due to confusion. Can't remember who voted on it

JC - Move that we discharge with a recommendation to not appoint a liaison

Second Varella

CW - Echo sentiments that we are accessible to discuss with Salem United

CW - yes

Cohen - Yes

McClain - Present

Varella - yes

LM - Wanted clarity around what a previous city council did or didn't do based on DW's comment

CW - Why is this in front of us? (Salem Human Rights Coalition)

JC - further clarification, it's an advisory board. We made a mistake of not going through council to have council president designate. Every other organization that has a liaison designated their liaison. IT is appropriate to have a council liaison, it's great to have representatives. Should be a liaison, should be die

CW - appoint a liaison

Second by councillor varella

CW - Yes

Cohen - Yes

McClain - Yes

Varella - Yes

Hapworth - yes

On the motion of C. Varella
____6:51____P.M.

the meeting adjourned at



(Chairperson)