

W/ 203098

From: Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 Alderman

Date: May 4, 2017

**Suggested changes to the Community Benefits Committee ordinance proposed by the Administration**

III. Establishment of Nominating Committee

(b) The Nominating Committee shall make recommendations for Committee membership which shall ensure that there is city-wide representation. Committee members shall reflect the diversity of Somerville. Committee members shall have interest or expertise in one or more of the following areas: preventing and mitigating displacement of residents or small local businesses, finance and development, planning and zoning, open space, sustainability, affordable housing, traffic and parking, human services, culture and the arts, education.

V. Definitions

“Community Benefits” shall mean the provision of programs or services that directly benefit Somerville residents. These programs or services may include human services, the arts, cultural enrichment, sustainability measures, public health, preventing and mitigating commercial and residential displacement, job training and workforce development, local hiring, the creation of multi-functional community spaces, including green and open space, affordable housing, educational programs, other areas of community enrichment, any other programs and services that the Neighborhood Councils may recommend.

“Funding Priorities” shall mean funding goals recommended by the Neighborhood Councils, Interim Neighborhood Councils, or Neighborhood Advisory Committees for the expenditure of community benefits funds in Somerville. Funding goals shall be influenced by periodic needs assessments to be conducted by the Community Benefits Committee and approved by the Board of Aldermen.

“Neighborhood Advisory Committee” shall mean the advisory committee appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Aldermen in the absence of a recognized Neighborhood Council or Interim Neighborhood Council to identify community benefits needs and priorities for a specific neighborhood.

① [The Neighborhood Advisory Committee shall represent the diversity of the neighborhood and make special efforts to seek out and listen to a broad range of people and groups in the neighborhood.]

“Neighborhood Council” shall mean...LEAVE THIS AS THROUGH ...a neighborhood council shall:

② (a) Be organized with a corporate purpose to maintain and improve the health, safety and welfare of all neighborhood residents and workers, compatible with the goals of the City’s comprehensive plan and the neighborhood plan adopted for that neighborhood (if one exists), along with any other purpose as determined in the Neighborhood Council’s by-laws. A Neighborhood Council shall give special attention...REMAINDER OF THIS PARAGRAPH LEAVE AS IS.

*Niedermyer memo, 5/4/17*

“Neighborhood-Specific Fund,” a sub-account of the community benefits stabilization fund containing monies allocated as mitigation for development in a specific neighborhood. A Neighborhood Council may recommend to the Committee that the Committee approve or reject an application or applications if the application focuses primarily on that neighborhood. The Committee shall support the Neighborhood Council’s recommendations unless a 2/3 majority of the full Committee (six [6] votes) vote to override those recommendations. A principal vehicle for accomplishing this for the Neighborhood-Specific Funds shall be an annual meeting between the Committee and each Neighborhood Council, Interim Neighborhood Council or Neighborhood Advisory Committee. At this annual meeting, which shall immediately proceed each annual funding cycle, the Neighborhood Council shall present a plan with their top three priorities for neighborhood-specific funding, and shall have the option to make funding recommendations to the Committee on any applications that have been submitted that focus primarily on that neighborhood.