

**RYAN R. O'DONNELL**  
**CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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January 16, 2018

Honorable Members of the City Council:

This letter describes the appointments I am making to City Council committees, as well as my recommendations to the Mayor per Section 1.03 of the Administrative Code for the appointment of Councilors to certain multiple-member bodies that include elected officials.

Please note that various other municipal bodies on which Councilors have historically served may not be mentioned here due to the fact that they are appointed exclusively by the Mayor without a recommendation from the Council President.

Decision-making framework

In making decisions about appointments, I applied the following principles:

- Every Councilor should receive at least some of their preferences in assignments so they are enthusiastic about their committee work.
- Every Council committee should have a gender balance.
- Quorums should not overlap between committees.
- Any two Councilors on any committee of four should be able to consult with me as Council President about the issues they are working on and receive support and assistance without triggering Open Meeting Law conflicts.
- The experience and familiarity that Councilors bring to certain committees is valuable, but so is building new experience for Councilors.
- The overall committee organization must serve the Council as a whole and recognize its responsibility to legislate effectively in the public interest.

## Appointments

With this framework in mind, I am appointing the following Councilors to these committees:

- **Legislative Matters:** Dwight, Klein, Murphy, Carney
- **Finance:** Murphy, Sciarra, Carney, LaBarge
- **Community Resources:** Sciarra, Bidwell, Klein, Nash
- **City Services:** Carney, LaBarge, Bidwell, Nash

I am also making the following recommendations to the Mayor that the following Councilors be appointed to these multiple-member bodies:

- **Energy and Sustainability Commission:** Dwight, Klein
- **Disability Commission:** LaBarge
- **Transportation and Parking Commission:** Nash, Sciarra

## Proposed rule amendment

For the Council's consideration, I am also submitting a Rules amendment relative to the Committee on Public Works and Utilities.

As you know, this committee was created in 2016 as the successor to a previous body that had been effectively discontinued due to the new Charter and Administrative Code. Since then, however, the committee has seldom convened, meeting only three or four times annually. As of today, the committee has not met for 295 days.

## Going forward

Here are a few things for the City Council committees to do next. Please:

1. Organize an initial committee meeting.
2. Elect both a Chair and Vice-Chair of your committees to accommodate potential absences of the Chair. Note that per Section 2.6.2.1 of the Council Rules, for the

purpose of the initial meeting the temporary chair will be the person first in the list of Councilors as I have written them above.

3. Vote on a meeting schedule so the Administrative Assistant to the City Council can publish it online.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. I look forward to working closely with all members of the City Council as we embark on a new term.

Sincerely,

Ryan R. O'Donnell  
City Council President

CC: Mayor David Narkewicz