

## DIVISION 12. – CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

### **Sec. 2-304. – Establishment; function.**

- (a) There shall be established a climate action commission, hereinafter called the "commission."
- (b) It shall be the function of the commission to:
  - (1) Address both the climate and environmental crises through community and local government operations toward the ultimate goals of creating a healthier, safer, thriving, equitable, resilient community, advancing environmental justice, adapting to climate change, and reversing the climate and environmental crises.
  - (2) Advise the mayor and municipal staff.
  - (3) Mobilize Somerville residents and stakeholders by educating the public, sharing information, and conducting outreach and engagement.

### **Sec. 2-305. – Membership; appointment; term; removal.**

- (a) The commission shall be composed of no less than five and up to 13 voting members who shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.
- (b) Unless otherwise stated in the ordinance, members shall serve a term of three years; however, of the members first appointed to the commission, three shall be appointed to a term of one year, five shall be appointed a term of two years, and five shall be appointed to a term of three years. Subsequent members of the commission shall be appointed to a term of three years by the Mayor and approved by the city council.
- (c) Two members shall be designated youth representatives and shall be appointed for a term of one year each. One representative shall be between the ages of 15 and 17 and the other between the ages of 18 and 25 at the time of appointment.
- (d) If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a member's term, a new member shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council to fill the remainder of the vacated term. If any member is absent from three or more successive meetings, the commission may request the mayor remove such absenting member from membership.
- (e) In appointing members of the commission, the Mayor shall consider diverse representation of its membership including by socioeconomic segments, religious creeds, national origins, gender identities, sexual orientations, and racial and ethnic segments of the city, and neighborhood.
- (f) A quorum of the commission shall be a simple majority of the members serving on the commission.

### **Sec. 2-306. – Support for the commission.**

- (a) The director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, or their designee, shall serve as a member of the commission by virtue of their office.

(b) The director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, or their designee, shall serve as the staff liaison to the commission, and serve as the custodian of all records for the commission, including recordings, attachments, minutes, agendas, advertisements, and materials.

(c) The superintendent of Somerville Public Schools, or their designee approved by the Mayor, shall serve as a member of the commission by virtue of their office.

**Sec. 2-307. – Qualifications of members.**

(a) Members shall be residents of the city, with the exception of one member who owns and does business in Somerville.

(b) All prospective members shall have interest in at least one of the following areas: public engagement; environment; policy; adaptation; mitigation; climate science; public finance; business and workforce; equity; social and infrastructure resiliency; community health; buildings; natural resources; waste; municipal and school operations; transportation; or, mobility.

(c) Members of the commission shall be classified as special municipal employees for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 268A.

**Sec. 2-308. – Election of chairperson; by-laws.**

The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among its members and adopt by-laws for the commission.

**Sec. 2-309. – Powers and duties.**

The powers and duties of the commission shall be the following:

- (1) Assist the city in adapting to climate change and improving the environment, ultimately creating a healthier, more resilient community.
- (2) Assist the city in taking all necessary steps to decarbonize and mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve the environment.
- (3) Assist the city in ensuring environmental justice and equity are central components of strategies implemented to address climate change and improve the environment.
- (4) Review progress towards the City's climate, environment, and emissions goals, actions, and strategies.

**Sec. 2-310. – Interim Commission.**

(a) The Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change shall retain all rights and responsibilities delegated by ordinance until the Climate Action Commission has a sufficient membership appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council to achieve quorum.

(1) Members of the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change shall be eligible for appointment to the Climate Action Commission.