City of Somerville

Wage Theft Advisory Committee

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

5:30p.m.

City Council Committee Room and Remote Participation

Wage Theft Advisory Minutes

Members Present: Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad, Councilor Wilfred Mbah, Steven Tolman, Marianne Walles

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM.

2. Selection of Committee Chair and Secretary

Councilor Mbah nominated Marianne Walles as Chair, seconded by Marcy Goldstein-Gelb. Members voted to elect Marianne Walles as Chair. Members agreed that a secretary was not needed.

3. Review of Committee Priorities

Members reviewed businesses reported to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, noting that some are no longer operating. Members also reviewed the Wage Theft Ordinance fact sheet and discussed priorities, including complaint tracking, worker education, strengthening protections, annual reporting, and employer engagement.

4. Wage Theft Ordinance Implementation

Members requested clarification on which building permits fall under the Wage Theft Ordinance. It was noted that the Committee serves in an advisory capacity and has no enforcement authority. Members discussed inviting the City Solicitor and Inspectional Services Department (ISD) to a future meeting to clarify enforcement procedures. Members also suggested working with the Economic Development Department to educate new businesses about wage theft requirements.

5. Review of Wage Theft Violations Identified by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

This item was discussed under Item 4.

6. Employer and Employee Education

Members discussed educating businesses, particularly small businesses, about wage theft prevention. Suggestions included partnering with the Economic Development Department, holding quarterly meetings with the Attorney General’s Office, and organizing an educational workshop in the new year.

7. Coordination with the Licensing Commission

Marianne Walles and Marcy Goldstein-Gelb agreed to contact Licensing Commission Chairman Joe Lynch to discuss the Commission's role in reviewing license applications involving violations. Members also suggested inviting Chairman Lynch to a future meeting.

8. Committee Administration and Future Meetings

Members discussed meeting procedures, including agenda distribution, quorum, attendance confirmation, and communication. Members suggested including Committee goals and accomplishments on future agendas and continuing coordination with the City Solicitor and ISD. Additional outreach and educational opportunities will be explored, such as drafting a press release letting the public know that the committee has been reconstituted.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

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