



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT – BUILDING DIVISION
KATJANA BALLANTYNE - MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Nicholas Antanavica, ISD Director
TO: Mayor's Office and City Clerk
RE: Occupancy and Egress from Council Chambers
DATE: April 16, 2025

Due to recent events at publicly attended council and committee meetings in the City Hall Council Chambers, concern has been expressed regarding the ability of attendees, city staff, and elected officials to safely navigate the Chambers. The current occupancy allows for 84 seats and 40 standing for public attendance. At recent meetings, inspectors have observed that the standing attendees are located along the outer edge of the seating area, reducing or obstructing the required egress paths.

Due to the observed safety issues, the occupancy for the Council Chambers is being set at 84 seats for an interim period of time.

The Committee Room and Sub-Committee Room are only to be used as staging or preparation areas for persons or groups with listed agenda items, not overflow for spectators. All means of egress, including but not limited to aisles, hallways, stairways, fire escapes, and exit doors within the Council Chambers through to the public way outside of City Hall must remain free and clear from obstructions, including objects and persons.



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