



## Programs & Services Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

**Present:** Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Noel, Albright, Ryan, Humphrey, Baker, Wright, and Greenberg

**City Staff:** Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Seth Bai, Veterans Services Officer; Lisa Dady, Historic Newton Director; Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Marc Welch, Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture and Urban Forestry Director; Luis Perez Demorizi, Open Space Coordinator; Deborah Youngblood, Commissioner of Health and Human Services; Linda Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Public Health and Education; Nathan Giacalone, Committee Clerk

**#247-20      Request for a review on the City Council rules**

COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT AND KRINTZMAN requesting a complete review and appropriate changes to the Rules and Orders of the City Council.

**Action:**      Programs & Services Held 8-0

**Notes:**      The Chair introduced the item, explaining that a Rules Subcommittee will be formed to examine various Councilor rules which Councilors have identified to require an update. The Subcommittee will then produce its recommendations to present to the Programs and Services Committee. The Rules Subcommittee will be chaired by Councilor Baker and also consist of Councilors Krintzman, Noel, and Humphrey. It will meet about once a month beginning after the close of budget season and is projected to complete its work by the close of the 2020-2021 Council term to have any new rules ready to go into effect for the start of the 2021-2022 term.

Councilor Baker motioned to hold the item which carried 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Josh Krintzman, Chair**

**To: Programs and Services Committee**

**From: Josh Krintzman**

**Re: Rules Subcommittee**

**Date: May 18, 2020**

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## **Formation of a Rules Subcommittee of the Programs and Services Committee**

### **A. Background.**

1. President Albright and Programs and Services Chair Krintzman docketed the following item before the Programs and Services Committee:

#247-20 COUNCILORS ALBRIGHT AND KRINTZMAN requesting a complete review and appropriate changes to the Rules and Orders of the City Council.

2. President Albright and Vice-President Lipof sent a memo dated April 20, 2020 to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programs and Services Committee asking for the formation of a Rules Subcommittee to “provide guidance and recommendations to the Council regarding any needed Rules changes, and the reasons for them...”, together with some additional suggestions as to process and also specific issues to be addressed, a copy of which is appended.

3. The City Council has a number of responsibilities upcoming in the first half of 2020, including work on zoning, as well as the City budget, which is traditionally completed by Memorial Day but has been deferred because of the disruptions of COVID-19.

4. Historical practice has been to refer proposed Rules changes to a Subcommittee of the Programs and Services Committee for review and recommendation to the full Committee in time for the recommendations to be reviewed and adopted by the full Council prior to the Inauguration of the next term’s City Council, when the Rules for that Council are formally adopted at Inauguration.

### **B. Recommendation.**

1. Mindful of all these considerations, as Chair of the Programs and Services Committee, I recommend the following:

a. **Establishment of a Rules Subcommittee.** I will establish a Rules Subcommittee to look at the recent recommendations for rules revisions in accordance with docket item #247-20.

b. **Subcommittee membership.** As of this writing, I have asked Councilors Baker, Humphrey, and Noel to join me in serving, with Councilor Baker as Subcommittee Chair.

c. **Subcommittee process.** The Subcommittee should begin its work and report its conclusions to the full Programs and Services Committee. I am hopeful that the initial

report can be made by July of 2021, recognizing that consideration of some Council matters would need to be suspended, for example, during the Budget deliberations. Without a hard deadline, that would mean a target vote by the full Council, including time for Charter objections and reconsideration, no later than the final Council meeting of December, 2021. This process would not prevent interim recommendations for Rules changes determined to be more pressing.

**g. Staff and resources.** To facilitate efficient work by the Subcommittee, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. Olson, should initially staff the Committee and assist in providing background. The clerk of the Programs and Services Committee, Nathan Giacalone should assist Mr. Olson with notices, agendas, and reports. The clerk's office is also asked to facilitate red-line comparison of the proposed changes whenever possible so that the Subcommittee can focus on the substance of the changes considered.

**i. Timing of meetings.** Subcommittee meetings should be scheduled when all members of the Subcommittee, as well as other interested Council members, can attend without hardship. Unlike standing Council Committees, the Subcommittee Report need not be done in time for a Friday packet before the next full Council meeting. Therefore, the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month are possible meeting nights, with special meetings called as may be helpful to the work of the Rules Subcommittee.

2. The hope and expectation is that this Rules Subcommittee process will assure a thorough and timely review of the Proposed Rules changes coming before the Council during this 2020-21 term.

Respectfully submitted, Josh Krintzman, Chair, Programs and Services Committee