

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

The roll call was taken with 4 members of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee present: Chairwoman Shoshanna Kelly presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly, Chairwoman
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Paula Johnson

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Mayor Jim Donchess
Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

ROLL CALL

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CLERK

Chairwoman Kelly called for nominations for the Committee Clerk for the 2026-2027 term.

ALDERMAN LOPEZ NOMINATED ALDERMAN THIBEALT AS THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CLERK

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO VOTE ON ELECTION OF ALDERMAN THIBEALT AS THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CLERK FOR THE 2026-2027 TERM
MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beth Scaer

Beth Scaer, 111 East Hobart Street . I'm here. I have questions about the new business ordinances relative to flag poles on City Hall grounds. My first question is will the proposed flag policy be a real change in behavior or just encourage people to give input privately to the Mayor? Will the City only fly flags it personally owns from now on rather than flying flags that have been loaned to it as previously and will you update the policy to include flags and banners hanging from city lamp posts and other city property? Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any additional public comment? Okay.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

INTERVIEWS

Ethics Review Committee

Justin Gerstenfield (new appointment)
79 Gilson Road
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: December 9, 2028

Lou Juris (new appointment)
59 Haines Street
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: February 10, 2029

Adam Thompson (new appointment)
30 Front Street, Apt. 715
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: February 10, 2029

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. This is our first Committee of the year. Generally when we have more than one coming up, we bring you up together. The Mayor will introduce you and then you all can talk briefly about your own experience and then we can direct questions to you guys since you're all going to be potentially serving on the same Committee.

Alderman Thibeault

Can I say one thing first?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yup.

Alderman Thibeault

So because I get to have a case against me on the Ethics Board, I will recuse myself from this vote with legal counsel and probably will not ask any questions so I don't look like I'm biased in any way when it comes to the Ethics Committee. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair. So the first nomination, excuse me, is Justin Gerstenfield. He is a very experienced educator. You can see from his resume that he has various degrees, including a Doctorate of Educational Leadership. He's been very active in the community in various respects. He has a very extensive resume. We have some openings on the Ethics Review Committee. Some pending cases as you've just heard so we need and appreciate anybody who's willing to serve on that Committee. I know Justin and he's a resident of Ward 5. I know him to be a very fair minded, and intelligent person, and I know he will do a fine job as a member of the Ethics Review Committee. But Justin - Mr. Gerstenfield is right here and I will turn it over to him to explain or to tell you anything else he'd like to tell you about himself and regarding his interest in serving on the Committee.

Justin Gerstenfield

So I signed up to volunteer to be a part of the Ethics Committee. When I was looking through the various committees looking at ways to give my time back to the City of Nashua, and the residents, and find ways to use the experiences that I have, I saw that as an opportunity to best serve the ways that I could for the City and residents. And looking back through my background having served in university administration, having done ethics reviews in undergraduate serving on Title 9 panels, and hearing investigations through counseling, and having conducted Phenomenological Research focusing on people's lived experiences, and having to approach all of this with a non-bias, applying the rules to that, I felt that this would be a good fit for me and my background and so that's when I was looking at the various committees to sign up for. I was like, oh let me volunteer my time with the Ethics Review Committee.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, thank you. Mr. Mayor do you want to introduce Mr. Juris next?

Mayor Donchess

Alright, you want to go with that one?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, let's do everybody in the (inaudible) first.

Mayor Donchess

So the next nominee next to Mr. Gerstenfield is Lou Juris. He is a resident of Ward 7. He's a lifelong resident of the City. His parents still live in Ward 7 on which street?

Lou Juris

March Street.

Mayor Donchess

March Street - and so he's been a lifelong resident of that neighborhood. He had a career at the MBTA for 25 years and has retired from that and since then, he's been very active here in the City. He's a State Rep. He's a Ward official and he is a substitute crossing guard. He is very interested in public issues, and I'm sure he'll do a great job here on the on the Ethics Committee, and therefore, I strongly recommend that you approve him for this appointment. And with that, I will turn it over to Mr. Juris for any comments he wishes to make regarding his background or regarding his interest on the Committee.

Lou Juris

Thank you Mayor and good evening Aldermen. If I were elected or chosen to serve, I would certainly look at each case that came forward with some impartiality, and fairness, and make sure that whatever is brought forward passes at first glance passes both the smell test and the silly test if you will. And it'll be done with fairness and in accordance to the rules and in accordance to the guidelines that are given. And as the Mayor said, I've been around for - I've been in and out of this - in my earlier years, I lived in town and I lived down in the north shore of Mass as well. Had some different experiences in life lately in the legislature, certainly at the Transit Authority, and I've had trainings as such in ethics and in, you know, in generally speaking, the rules and policies. So I've learned from and I've been in hearings as well. So I've learned from those experiences during those times and certainly can bring my experience forward and help out and also serve as a member to the best of my ability. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor do you want to introduce?

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair. And the third nominee is Adam Thompson. Mr. Thompson is a resident of Ward 3. He is a Marine Corps veteran having served in the Marine Corps for, I think, 4 years, right, and he's also a former public school educator. He is the Ward Clerk - in other words, a Ward official, Election Official, Ward Clerk of Ward 3. He's also been involved in various other community activities. In his experience as an educator has been involved in hearing and other confidential matters. So he would certainly be a strong nominee. He is a strong nominee for the Ethics Committee. And again, we need to fill several positions and so I appreciate his willingness and the willingness of Mr. Juris and Mr. Gerstenfield. But with that, I will turn it over to Mr. Thompson for any comments he wishes to make.

Adam Thompson

Thank you Mr. Mayor, Aldermen. I appreciate the opportunity. And Mr. Mayor, I appreciate the promotion there to Clerk. I'm a Selectman. Emma might not be too happy to hear that but regardless, I appreciate it and I appreciate the trust you're showing there.

My name is Adam Thompson. I'm a former public school educator and a disabled veteran. I moved to the City five years ago and became very interested in the City as I became more familiar with it, as I learned more about the City walking around talking to people, and I really developed quite a fondness for the City. So much so that it's kind of reinvigorated my interest in public service and so when I found out about the Committees, I perused them and I thought this was a good opportunity to step up and serve again. I believe in accessibility and transparency. It's one of the reasons that I ran for Selectman and partially for the disability rights things that I'm also interested in. So I appreciate the opportunity to serve again. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, great. So just to the Aldermen, I'm going to open it up for questions. If you have a question for a specific person, just let me know who that's directed to. If you want it to all of them, also mention that. And then for our panel, our panel – our interviewees however we want to put it, just make sure you say your name before you speak just for our transcriptionist so that they can denote who's been speaking. So I will open it up for questions.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. My first question, I guess will be directed to Corporation Counsel. I did send an email to Attorney Clarke.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I don't think this is the appropriate time for questions for me.

Alderman Johnson

Well then I'll just give my opinion about this then. I don't understand - I figured I'd ask because there's a term policy according to the NRO. There's a discrepancy on the term of one of the new appointments and according to the NRO, it does not coincide. So I don't have to ask you the question. I'll just bring it up and we might have to get an answer later on to this.

I don't understand the appointment for the Ethics Review Committee is a 3 year term but Mr. Gerstenfield has it for a 2 year term and the NRO is very clear it's a 3 year term. So I don't understand why it's 2 years versus 3 years, so.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor do you want to...?

Mayor Donchess

I believe, but we can verify this, there have been resignations on this Committee. So when someone resigns in the middle of a term, the new appointment serves the remainder of that 3 year term. So I believe what's happened is someone has resigned and I'm appointing Mr. Gerstenfield to fill the remainder of that term.

Chairwoman Kelly

That was my understanding as well.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you but I guess it would be great if you let some of us know about this because then I wouldn't have to - it seems like I'm targeting him but I'm not because of the fact that if it's a 3 year term and you're only putting 2, you should have let us know that he will be filling the remainder of somebody who has resigned from the Board so then this way it's not in conflict with the NRO.

Chairwoman Kelly

It's generally the way this Committee has run. If someone's filling it, we know that as people who've been on it. So happy to answer any questions you have about things like that before meetings. Do you have questions for anyone around their experience?

Mayor Donchess

But the point is well taken. So in the future, I can make that clear on the appointment form that it's serving the remainder of an unexpired term.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you, that would be great. Can I continue with some questions?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Johnson

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I guess I'm going to start all three of you on the panel. This is fun. This will be for all three of you and I think it will be kind of good. Can you describe a time when you had to make a difficult decision? What factors did you consider?

Chairwoman Kelly

We'll start with Dr. Gerstenfield and go this way.

Justin Gerstenfield

So I had to do one. Justin Gerstenfield. I was making one today before I came here which is why I flew into the door. We're working with a student who is looking to return to complete their education after taking almost two decades off of their education and policy states that the student has to retake courses that expire after 10 years, and but it's also up to the college or university to decide whether or not the student has to do that, and in this particular student's case if we don't make them do that, they can graduate with only taking two classes at a Massachusetts Community College for free or we can make them take 15 classes at the University for \$60,000, and I don't agree with that, and so it was a lot of discussions that had to be taken on. What is the correct thing to do for someone who has been working in a business field for the last 22 years to come back and take two classes that don't apply to their business degree on whether or not we should push them to be \$60,000 more in debt just because we feel like we should follow a policy that we have the ability to waive. And so it was challenging people to look at the other perspective and see why are we doing it the way that we're doing it and do we do it this way just because we feel like it, or we want to dig our heels in, or do we want to admit that maybe we should make an exception and look at it from the other side and do the right thing by the person that's sitting in front of us?

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Adam Thompson

Oh, sure. Adam Thompson. I'm actually dealing with something right now with an organization that I'm involved in and what I've done is contacted all of the parties involved to understand their perspective, and where they're coming from, and then compared that along with our guiding documents to make sure that nobody's overstepped or broken any trusts, and then settled it following the guides.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Lou Juris

So in the arc of life, there are always decisions to be made almost on a daily basis. Some of them more important than others but I can recall a time in my professional career at the Transit Authority where I had to make a decision whether it - it's similar to what this appointment is about whether to pursue a case in front of a board over a violation of some rules. It was pretty petty. The union was involved. We were going to go to - it was an arbitration thing. So after some debate and some back and forth, we had decided to go forward with the arbitration even though it was going to cost some time and money to hear the case in front of an impartial arbiter. It was decided that for people not to do this again that it would be wise to go forward with it. I could have dropped the whole thing or went through it and it was, you know, there was some a little bit of tension there certainly some stress. So that's I guess one thing that sticks out here if I could in the spur of the moment.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Lou Juris

You got it.

Chairwoman Kelly

Additional questions?

Alderman Johnson

I'll let somebody else and then I'll come back. Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

I don't have questions. Just a comment. I appreciate all of you taking the time to serve. Looking at your resumes, I typically do have specific questions but I think the experience that you guys are presenting and the comments that you've made do support the role you're doing. So I think the Mayor made some pretty good appointments here, and I think we need to get our Ethics Committee back up to staff, and I think you guys are the ones for the job so you'll be getting my support.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. Mayor when if these nominees go through is your Ethics Committee going to be exactly where it needs to be with all the members or are you going to still be short?

Mayor Donchess

I think the positions will be filled, although there's the possibility that other people could leave. But if that doesn't happen, I think we'll be full - we'll be complete with 5 members.

Alderman Johnson

Okay. And may I ask one final question?

Chairwoman Kelly

Alderman Johnson.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. And this is really directed to all of you. Do any of you know any if there's any outstanding cases, hearings that have to be done and if so, do you know anybody? I will put aside the Alderman here - outside of that - anybody else that might put your decisions of listening to cases out there what's going on?

Adam Thompson

Adam Thompson. I'm walking through this with fresh eyes and I'm unaware of anything outstanding. If anything gets presented to us, it'll be done so with fresh eyes.

Alderman Johnson

Okay, thank you.

Lou Juris

It sounds like a plan. I would concur with Adam, fellow appointee. I don't know of any cases that are present or that are pending. Again, looking at them - whatever comes forward looking at it impartially and fairly for sure.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Justin Gerstenfield

Justin Gerstenfield. And outside of the one that you mentioned, not aware of any other of any other cases and regardless, all cases what you may hear outside of it unless you are in the room and presented with all the facts, you have to look at them with fresh eyes because you don't know what is being said because you don't have all of the information.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any additional questions? All right.

I'm gonna ask a hard one. So thank you first of all, all of you for stepping forward to serve. Anytime someone comes forward before us, we know its time that you're giving to the city so I appreciate that. So my hard question is that this Committee as the Mayor has pointed out has had a number of resignations because oftentimes it can get very heated. So I'm interested in what your conflict resolution style is. If there's, you know, a lot of frustrations and things happening in a meeting. How about you Lou. Do you want to go first?

Lou Juris

Sure. Conflict resolution – first thing that comes to mind is I guess being a parent. It's certainly more difficult as the children could move up into adulthood that's for sure. So there are things that come up that still you have to help resolve and help manage. But you know going back to my earlier comments, certainly look at things, you know, just look at each matter as they as it comes, and call balls and strikes, and try to use some relaxation techniques, you know, some breathing, and just I've been in situations where things can get difficult. They can get, you know, like you mentioned heated. They can get kind of hot and, yeah, I worked and I've been involved in situations like that and, you know, even up to now going to hearings up with the State House.

You know you feel it. Sometimes you become a little bit numb to it but, you know, there are both sides and it's important to understand what the what the rules are and if they've been crossed or violated but it's also important to have some understanding and empathy to those who are being brought forward and to those who are making the case as well. So keeping that in mind, I would keep that in mind going forward while performing these duties.

Adam Thompson

Adam Thompson. In my time as the Mayor pointed out serving in the Marine Corps, I've had a lot of situations where we needed to remain calm and collected while we dealt with different things. Same thing when I was teaching in Brockton, Massachusetts. I worked at a school that was for students that had been kicked out of the other schools and they were often very emotional as they were pleading their case. The challenge is to and the key is to remain calm yourself, and to remain as level headed as possible, and as Representative Juris pointed out, it's important to also practice our own mindfulness and our own forms of meditation so we ourselves don't get overwhelmed. I've done significant amounts of de-escalation trainings both through the school systems and as well as my own recent personal capacity and it's important that as we're working that we do so considering Part 5, Chapter 5 of the City Code.

Justin Gerstenfield

Well and ditto to what they have all said. But I would say in addition to that, part of my professional role or part of my professional research is looking into hostile work environments, and finding ways to make sure that they don't happen, and stopping them, and figuring out what makes people feel triggered in those areas, and so through that, I have learned quite a few ways to deal with being in hostile work environment situations or just hostile situations in general. Been in numerous times where campuses - well not numerous, just twice - have been on campuses that have been locked down due to active shooters. One most recently just this past fall with the UMass Lowell incident where we were on lockdown for an active shooter. So it's like Adam Thompson said, remaining calm, and working to de-escalate the situation, and just being present, and taking time, and breathing

Chairwoman Kelly

Good job. Any additional questions or thoughts from Aldermen and if you guys want to add anything before I go? We'll take up your nominations after.

Lou Juris

I'll just add briefly. Lou Juris here again. Yeah we've taken, I think, all of us have probably taken some sort of de-escalation. That was a good topic there. De-escalation training, hostility, that kind of those matters, certainly inclusion training. You know, most of the companies do and I think even this the school system now, there's trainings that are being put forward online and part of the one of the segments is de-escalation, and dealing with students de-escalation, and understanding those techniques, and how to develop those techniques. So, thank you.

Adam Thompson

Adam Thompson. Just want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the city. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay.

Lou Juris

Likewise.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you very much. We'll be taking up your nomination in a little bit. I appreciate it.

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Justin Hoprich (new appointment)
29 Lutheran Drive
Nashua, NH 03063

Term to Expire: January 13, 2029

Kamal Masand (new appointment)
20 Jennifer Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: February 10, 2029

Michael Sliwa (new appointment)
28 Woodfield Street
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: March 10, 2029

Chairwoman Kelly

Alright. Thank you very much. I'll have the Mayor – we'll do it in the same order.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair. So all three appointments here are for the Mine Falls Advisory Committee. The main criteria here is people who are interested in the Park and who are willing to put time into serving the Park. We have, you know, this is a very large Park. The Committee - Mine Falls Advisory Committee over the years has done a really good job in both helping to advise and guide the city regarding its treatment of the Park, but also a lot of volunteer and clean up days that are conducted in an effort to keep the Park clean and just keep it as good a shape as possible.

Now - so I appreciate anyone who wants to be on this Committee because we need as much help as we can get in Mine Falls. We have first Mr. Hoprich who has been volunteering for some years - a couple of years - doing these cleanups and he would like to step up and be on the Committee, which seems like a very admirable and reasonable request. He is a resident of Ward 1. He works for BAE in Quality Control, I believe, and therefore I'm glad to be nominating him for this position.

We also have Mr. Masand who also has been actively engaged at the Park for quite a period of time. He's a Lions Club member as well. Again, anyone such as who is willing to put time in out there and help the city in that way, I think we want to welcome them on to this Committee. So, I'm certainly enthusiastic about his nomination as well.

And finally, we have Mr. Sliwa who lives in Ward 5, Woodfield Street, which is relatively near an entrance to the Park. He obviously enjoys the Park and has spent a lot of time there. He would like to be on the Committee. He has extensive professional experience, you know, in various companies and you can see his resume. But the principal qualification, again, I come back to the beginning. The principal qualification is a willingness to help us with respect to one of our most important parks in our principal wilderness park. So in all three, with all three, I'm just very glad that they're willing to serve and I'm sure the Committee can put them to good use.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. Do you want to call?

Mayor Donchess

And so I will first go to Mr. Hoprich and ask him if he has anything to add either regarding himself or his interest in Mine Falls.

Justin Hoprich

Hi, I'm Justin Hoprich. I first fell in love with the Park running cross country for the high school and since then, I've always been coming back and kind of exploring the trail and getting real familiar with everything. After college, came back from Florida and started volunteering with the Committee and that was a really nice opportunity to kind of give back to the Park that has treated me so well. After attending one of the Board meetings and seeing a little bit more of the inner workings of the Board, I wanted to join to both give my input and maybe some expertise on, you know, from professional experiences. So I'm excited to learn about more about the inner workings and contribute. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

One thing I'd like to add there is that it would be great to try to encourage colleges to use Mine Falls as a cross country course. Like maybe University of Lowell, other nearby colleges, and Mr. Hoprich's experience may enable him to be able to facilitate that and so hopefully the Committee could pursue that.

In any event, we also have Mr. Masand and I will turn it over to him, again, to say anything he would like to about his interest in the Park or regarding his background there.

Kamal Masand

Yeah, Kamal Masand. I actually going into park for last 25 years plus now. I used to go and take the photographs for the fall foliage near and really fell in love. Then I started helping out during the volunteer days, starting the cleaning up the dog poops, bottles, everything. Then I was asked can I can I handle the hard work? So I first time, picked up the sledgehammer and tried to break the stones and help out quite a bit there. So it's been 10-15 years plus cleaning up and cleaning up. That I was approached two years in a row that why don't you come to our Advisory Committee? Why don't you join us? I don't have time. I run a full time business. I don't have time but this year they said no, we need you badly. So I said okay. This year I put my name and if I do get nominated, I'll be happy to provide my expertise from my business expertise, my legal expertise. I have a legal background. I have a CPA. I got all the degrees. I can help you all the inside/outside. So I'll help you but definitely I love cleaning up and working there on the field. That's my goal. Keep the trails clean and get more foot traffic there. That's the goal. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

And now Mr. Sliwa who I already indicated is very interested in the Park and would like to serve and so I'll turn it over to him to say anything he'd like to regarding himself or regarding his interest in being on this Mine Falls Committee.

Michael Sliwa

Thank you, Mayor and good evening Aldermen. I've been a Nashua resident for about 40 years and being of 40 years, this is the 40 year anniversary of the Patriots and the Bears. This guy moved out from Chicago 40 years ago and so ever since that time, I've been going to Mine Falls - walking, running, taking my kids there, and now it's come full circle, and now I do have the time because I just recently retired. So I'm looking for things I'm passionate about. Mine Falls is one of those things. It's probably one of our greatest assets in this city and I really want to contribute to the Committee so that, you know, so I can help preserve and maintain Mine Falls over the years. So thank you and happy to answer any questions you have.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you very much. We'll open it up to questions from the Aldermen?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair. So it's not a question. It's more just a comment. Mine Falls like you said, it's really one of our jewels. That and Greeley Park are two main jewels of the city. It's why people come here. I've coached there. My kids have run through there on cross country for school. So it's definitely to see for this Committee to see people that are passionate to want to help. That's really what I care about on this, right. This is more of a willingness to help. It doesn't - you can be from any walk of life and want to be out there helping clean up the Park. So thank you for all coming forward. I think everything you guys have said has been great so far so thank you.

Kamal Masand

Thank you.

Alderman Lopez

So fair warning, I'm the Alderman for Ward 4 and Alderman Johnson is Ward 5. So we pretty much have Mine Falls like book ended.

So Mine Falls is a very diverse spot and there's a lot of different people trying to do a lot of different things. The Mayor mentioned an interest in college cross country but there's like high school students that are always training. There's marathon athletes training through Gate City Striders. Then there's people walking, and there's people walking their dogs, their children, all kinds of stuff. A lot of things happening in the same place.

As Alderman Thibodeau mentioned – oh jeez here we go – as Alderman Thibeault mentioned, there's also a lot of organized recreational sports and there's a lot of neighbors. The Boys and Girls Club is next to it. The YMCA is adjacent. So there's a lot of competing interests for that particular area and as many of you stated, it is a jewel of Nashua. So my first question is have you attended the Mine Falls Advisory Board Committee meetings before and do you have experience being on a committee? And then my second is given that we have a number of development projects underway that might affect the Park, you know, the animal dog park development, the Nimco building redevelopment – more, how will you best be able to advocate for giving the City the advice and the guidance that it needs on that Committee and how do you see yourself doing that?

Chairwoman Kelly

That 3-for. Have you attended, have you ever served, and then preserving?

Justin Hoprich

So I, Justin Hoprich, have only attended one of the Board meetings in observance. I have not been on any city committee before and in terms of all these very fluid projects that are going around, a lot of different attendees using the Park, I think it's very worthwhile to make sure there's open communication between like the Committee and all these different bodies or organizations so you kind of you're able to share information and know what's going on. What people need, what people want, and then be able to kind of triage that to best use your resources so you could satisfy what's the priority? But I don't know if that answers your question.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, just to clarify. In politics, the longer the question is the more the information the person trying to deliver information. So part of my phrasing was to express my concerns and my priorities. So if you're able to address

that tonight in this spot, I'll be impressed but my support doesn't rely on you having all the answers at the beginning. It's more just are you willing to give it a shot, try to answer it, and figure it out from there.

Justin Hoprich

Hmm mmm.

Chairwoman Kelly

Oh, great Alderman.

Alderman Lopez

So the answer was right. I wouldn't second guess it.

Kamal Masand

Me? Okay. Alright. I haven't attended any Mine Falls Committee meetings before so this will be my first but I've been on the Board of Directors for lot of endowment and nonprofit. That's not my first rodeo. So I know whatever the problem to come being coming from doing MBA and all that, I know how to develop action plan, look into what the purpose has come, go into it, look both the legal side, business side, and then try to make a rational decision, and also same time learn how to do that. So it's going to be a learning curve a little bit but I think I'll be fast learner.

Michael Sliwa

Thank you, Mike Sliwa. So yes, I have attended some of the recent Committees in the end of 2025. I've done some trail days in the past but then more recently, I did a trail day and that's what really inspired taking that next step to join the Committee and, you know in the (inaudible) of life, yes I've been part of enhancement committees, steering committees so there is some experience there and it's really about listening to everybody and getting everyone's thoughts before proceeding with an action plan. But happy to hope that answers your questions for now.

Alderman Lopez

It does and I think the Mayor has picked a diverse group of experienced volunteers. So as I did with the previous group, I appreciate that you're willing to step forward and volunteer, and I am pretty pleased by most of the answers that I hear, and I think everyone's coming at this with good intentions, and I just hope that, you know, food for thought. It's good to check out what the Committee's been up to and how it operates ahead of time so that you can hit the ground running.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. Thank you gentlemen for wanting to serve on that Committee. Like Alderman Lopez says, he's on one end of Mind Falls and I'm on the other side. I'm on the Stellos side of Mine Falls. I can walk right through my neighborhood and get right to Stellos and right to Mine Falls. And Mine Falls is beautiful. I used to walk there many years ago and do 2 - 3 miles a day through Mine Falls. What used to concern me sometimes was the bicycles. People riding the bicycles almost run you over and I really think that people should clean up after their dogs. I mean I'm a dog owner - two dogs and, you know, it's just the right thing to do. But with that being said, thank you for wanting to volunteer to keep Mine Falls beautiful. Thank you.

Kamal Masand

You're welcome. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Alright, thank you. We'll take up your nomination in a bit.

Board of Health

9 Bartlett Avenue
Nashua, NH 03064

Stephanie Ballentine

You didn't have to read all that.

Chairwoman Kelly

There's a lot.

Alderman Thibeault

Giving you all your credit.

Chairwoman Kelly

It's almost the entire alphabet there.

Alderman Thibeault

I know.

Stephanie Ballentine

Right.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor, I know you would want to introduce but I also know that Alderman Wilshire is here to speak as well. You can sit.

President Wilshire

Well it's my honor to introduce Stephanie Ballentine and the alphabet behind her name, which is very impressive by the way. She has great experience. She's an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Sorry, I knew what is was. I'm like, my bad and I most recently ran into her in the mobile clinic from St Joe's. They actually came to my work and did flu shots for people. So she's very immersed in the community. She's very well educated. She's done a lot of great things. I mean she was even a public school nurse substitute at one point. So, you know, that says a lot about her. I think she'd make a great addition to the Board of Health and if the Mayor has something to add, he can.

Mayor Donchess

I think Stephanie's a great nurse. She's given me various advice regarding minor injuries and she's always been very good. So I think knowing her that she will be a great - more seriously knowing her, she'll be a great addition to the Committee. We do not have currently a nurse and therefore, this will be a valuable perspective in my opinion.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you. Stephanie, you want to introduce yourself, please?

Stephanie Ballentine

I'm Stephanie Ballentine with all the alphabets. I have been a nurse, a registered nurse for - this is scary but I can't do the math - 48 years. I have been a Board Certified Nurse Practitioner since 2009. So I've been in like you said, I've been in a lot of different areas as both roles. I have a very broad look back and perspectives on various aspects of population and individual health. When the City Charter was changed at the last election to allow for a registered nurse and a social worker to serve on the Board, I thought that just sounds like something I'd be good at.

So I retired from my full time faculty position at Rivier in the Graduate Nursing Program last May. So I continue to

work as a provider on the Mobile Health Clinic providing primarily acute care to the unhoused population but we also do a lot of community outreach like we did at the Children's Center - the Children's Home. But since I'm not working full time, I find that I have a lot more time and I still have a lot of energy so I thought I would be able to offer a different perspective and my expertise on the Board.

Chairwoman Kelly

All right, thank you. I'll open up to questions from the Committee or comments?

Alderman Lopez

So first, I don't really usually see the Family Nurse Practitioner credential so it doesn't need to be said looking your resume. Wow, what a well-rounded person. It looks like you've spent your entire life in healthcare and a good part of it educating other healthcare professionals. I guess I was curious. The only thing that could possibly be missing here is other activities beyond that. I mean, I can see...

Stephanie Ballentine

Actually, I have a 3 - hour tennis match scheduled tomorrow.

Alderman Lopez

So you have your work/life balance. That's good.

Stephanie Ballentine

Yeah, and I spend a great deal of time in the summer cycling through Mine Falls. I apologize for my fellow cyclists. If they run you down - they almost run me down too sometimes but yeah, I know what you mean.

Alderman Lopez

At least you're positioned to help if something happens.

Stephanie Ballentine

I'm sorry?

Alderman Lopez

I said at least you're in position to help if we injure something.

Stephanie Ballentine

Yeah, right.

Alderman Lopez

But I really appreciate all the activities that you've been doing. It seems like you've been very much enmeshed in the communities, at least the ones that I'm aware of like at Rivier and St. Joseph's. Typically when I see anybody associated with public health ask about their experience with outreach and their knowledge of the different crises that the City of Nashua is navigating. But I see you out there, so I don't really have to ask those things.

Stephanie Ballentine

I see you a lot too.

Alderman Lopez

Thank you for making extra time out of all of your activities to come and serve.

Stephanie Ballentine

Thank you.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I just want to say thank you for coming forward to want to serve and I said to you on Friday, I haven't seen you in years and now I saw you on Friday, and I see you on Monday, and...

Stephanie Ballentine

I know.

Alderman Johnson

you know, thank you for wanting to serve...

Stephanie Ballentine

Thank you.

Alderman Johnson

...on the Board. Thank you.

Stephanie Ballentine

I'm sure I'll show up a third time.

Alderman Johnson

Third times a charm.

Alderman Lopez

Good things come in three's.

Alderman Johnson

Exactly.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll say that Alderman Wilshire's made this very easy bringing such an incredible person forward. I also see you out there and, you know, to what one of my colleagues pointed about right now, there's so much going on and I know you're in that community, you're connected to what's going on, and I think that's going to be really critical as a voice on the Board of Health. So thank you for stepping forward.

Stephanie Ballentine

Thanks.

Chairwoman Kelly

Any other questions? We're good, okay. We'll take up your nomination.

President Wilshire

Thank you very much.

Stephanie Ballentine

I just want to say these chairs are a lot softer than those benches.

Chairwoman Kelly

I know.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, but after the 3rd hour they're not so good.

Stephanie Ballentine

I was hoping to sit here a little longer but...

Alderman Johnson

You have to ask for that special chair. Break your knee cap and you get a special chair.

Stephanie Ballentine

Well, I know the next folks want to come in here and have this chair.

Arts Commission

Stephanie Moll (new appointment)
15 LedgeWood Hills Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: March 10 2029

Chairwoman Kelly

Miss Moll is joining us on Zoom. Do I need to ask her about if she's by herself and all those things?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

No.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Can you hear us?

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Well...

Stephanie Moll

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Stephanie Moll

Can you hear me?

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah.

Mayor Donchess

Ms. Moll, I'm nominating her for the Arts Commission. She is on Zoom. As you can see from her resume, she's

been very active in performing arts for quite some time. She's on the Nashua Theater Guild as the Corresponding Secretary where she performs various duties but also has been a volunteer usher for a number of performance companies - the Actor/Singers here in Nashua, also at the Nashua Center for the Arts, at the Palace and Majestic Theaters in Manchester, and over in the seacoast at the Seacoast Repertory Theater in Portsmouth. She, of course, has professional employment experience that you can see from her resume. We can certainly use people with this level of experience in the performing arts on the Arts Commission and therefore, I believe she will be a valuable addition. But with that, I will turn it over to Ms. Moll to tell you anything else she'd like about herself and regarding why she's particularly interested in the Nashua Arts Commission.

Stephanie Moll

Thank you very much and appreciate you letting me join from zoom since my flight home was canceled. I think they had like one inch of snow in Charlotte and that was too much.

So anyway, I moved to Nashua about 5 years ago and I knew I immediately wanted to get involved in the arts and in addition to volunteering for all those different theaters and organizations, I also - my face is in the Hippo every week and I go to everything artsy that I can. I love the international symposium with the sculptors and meeting the sculptors, the new art hub that opened on Main Street, the sculpture walk, the murals walk, the new alleyway - I forget what it's called. So I have time, and I have interest, and I have energy, and I was recommended 2 years ago by Judith Carlson but at the time, I couldn't commit to going to the meetings because of my work career and then a few months ago, Lindsay Rinaldi also then invited me and because of my work schedule, I'm now able to attend the meetings, and I really want people to experience all the different types of arts, and to know more about what's going on in the City, and also lend my services and my help to any new art experiences or anything art related that could be developed in the City.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. Thank you very much. We will - comments or questions from the Aldermen?

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair. As the others, you know, I also say thank you for stepping up. Judy and Lindsay obviously are two great recommend - getting great recommendations from. They're awesome people and they do a great job with the stuff they do in the city. So I thank you for stepping up.

My question is what's Nashua missing in the arts? And I think - I'll say that I think a city needs art. Some form of art/all form of art, right, whether it's stage or whether it's murals. I think for a growing city like us, I think art is important for people because for kids that maybe aren't into sports or aren't into engineering, or they might find their niche in art, right. So I think it's important to have that and say what's Nashua missing for art?

Stephanie Moll

I think the first thing that they're missing is just publicizing and somehow motivating people to experience everything that we already have. I ask people my age, oh did you know about the international art symposium? No. Well, you know, when you walk through Mine Falls and you see those sculptures do you know where they come from? No. Did you know we have a whole sculpture map that you could walk around? No. I think the first thing we have to figure out is how to get more people to experience the wonderful, awesome things we already have. I don't know exactly how to do that but I I'm a person who reads the Hippo every day and now we also have the Downtowner, which I think is great. If you haven't subscribed to that, definitely should but I think if there's a way to hype those things and make them - I don't know more interesting to attend or make sure people know about them, I would say that's the first thing.

Alderman Thibeault

Yup.

Stephanie Moll

In terms of what else it might be missing - when we have art exhibits, we have the one in the Nashua Center for the Arts. There used to be an art gallery on the corner next to Martha's. I don't know if that's still there but really, I think my first priority is to figure out how we can get more people to experience the wonderful things that we already

have.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you. That's a great answer and I am a subscriber to the Downtowner, so I'm all set.

Alderman Lopez

So first, I appreciate the previous question and particularly the answer that you gave because as Alderman, I've noticed over the recent couple of years we sort of keep looking for new things, and fresh things, and we have moved away from things that were new and fresh that are still going, and I think as a result, the spotlight kind of moves on to whoever the most recent player in town is and we haven't integrated movements that have themselves built a lot of groups, followings, and activities.

Some of the earliest and most successful, I think, events that like Positive Street Art used to do was in partnership with the – I'm drawing a blank now - with ballet, with different music forms, orchestral music. You put different seemingly different styles of art together but when you put different artists together, they usually produce something new and amazing. So I think part of what our city really, really needs is what you were describing - more awareness of opportunities and activities to allow for that engagement and then some more cross collaboration between different groups to kind of see what they can come up with and see what's fresh. But also to bring people that have already connected with different place, and groups, and feel comfortable in those particular scenes into new ones. How does the Nashua Arts Commission have a role in doing that? How can you build communities amongst artist groups?

Stephanie Moll

I think we have to look at what works first. So I can tell you that I always attend the Holiday Stroll. I love the Holiday Stroll. Thousands of people attend the Holiday Stroll. We have music there. We open up the shops. I brought my friends into the art hub. They had never been in. Come in, you've got to see this place. It's really cool. And so I wonder if we had some kind of event. I mean, the Greeley Park Art Show is great. Okay. I don't know if there were a lot of children's things there other than people selling balloons or whatever but I wonder if there's a way to have an art stroll where we can have paint lessons - not that we paint your face but you paint something, and maybe it's a scavenger hunt. We want you to find 5 sculptures and if you can find 3 sculptures, and you can find 2 murals, and this, and you bring it to the City Hall, you know, you get a prize or something. So some kind of fun event because if the kids come, the adults come and usually people like my age will come anyway because we just will.

But I think go with the things that we already do that work and the Stroll works and the concept of the Stroll works. So maybe adding something like that that's focused on doing art and maybe at that Stroll you have people from the music school perform. For instance, another event I love is the Milford Pumpkin Festival and I go every year and one of the great things about it is that they have, you know, the taekwondo school people perform, and the dancers perform. You know, there's performances going on the whole time. So it's a way to showcase some of the things that are available for students that are not sports related even though, I guess, karate is but I think take ideas from what already works.

Chairwoman Kelly

Great. Any additional...

Alderman Lopez

I appreciate that answer.

Chairwoman Kelly

All set? Any additional questions or comments? I'll just thank you for coming forward. The arts are near and dear to my heart and I can hear your passion for it. It's one of the things I love about where we live and I think you will be an exceptional Art Commission member so thank you.

Stephanie Moll

Thank you very much. I appreciate the time and I appreciate the invitation.

Chairwoman Kelly

I hope you get home. There's a lot more snow here.

Stephanie Moll

I'm supposed to fly home tomorrow night now, so we'll see what happens.

Chairwoman Kelly

Best of luck.

Stephanie Moll

Thank you.

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE – None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION: STEPHANIE MOLL WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 10, 2029; TO RECOMMEND TO THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION: JASON TELERSKI AND OSCAR VILLACIS BOTH WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 1, 2028; AND TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: RICHARD WIDHU WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2028; TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING TO THE MINE FALLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RE-APPOINT OF PAULA LOCHHEAD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JANUARY 27, 2029; NEW APPOINTMENTS OF JUSTIN HOPRICH WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JANUARY 13, 2029; KAMAL MASAND WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 10, 2029; AND MICHAEL SLIWA WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 10 2029
MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE: JUSTIN GERSTENFIELD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 9, 2028; LOU JURIS AND ADAM THOMPSON BOTH WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE FEBRUARY 10, 2029
MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Thibeault abstained)**

ELECTION BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ELECTED REGISTERED NURSE MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH: STEPHANIE BALLENTINE, MS, RN, APRN, FNP-BC WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2027

ON THE QUESTION

President Wilshire

I don't have any discussion but I just want to say I think Stephanie would be a great addition to the Board of Health. I've known her for many, many years and her resume just kind of speaks for itself. So, thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-26-008

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess

Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RENAMING THE "ARLINGTON STREET COMMUNITY CENTER" AS THE "GLORIA TIMMONS COMMUNITY CENTER"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

Chairwoman Kelly

Gonna record for the note that I'd like to be an endorser. I was not here, but. Discussion on the motion?

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, okay.

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Wilshire

I'd just like to say, I think Gloria is well deserving of this honor and it is an honor. She was very, very involved and I just think it's the least we can do. She was a wonderful person, cared a lot about the kids so I think we should do this.

Alderman Lopez

I think when you name something after someone, it has to be someone that others can see that name and aspire to. Maybe say who is Gloria Timmons and look up their history, and find something admirable, and I think Gloria is certainly that person. I think this is an opportunity for more people to learn about the kind of experiences she had, the kind of ways that she was a leader in our community, the way she served our country. So I definitely will support this motion and I'm looking forward to seeing her name up there.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, with me too. I mean Gloria was a friend and her resume like people said, speaks for itself. I had more of a question and it could be rhetorical, I don't know. I mean how - and I know we have the leader over there of the Arlington Community Center. I guess my question is has there been any pushback on this by either the Center itself or people out there that find a reason that we shouldn't name it - that we know of?

Unidentified Speaker

I haven't heard anything.

Alderman Thibeault

And you're good with it?

Unidentified Speaker

I'm good with it.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, that answers my question.

Mayor Donchess

Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Kelly

Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

So I think one reason for this is that the Community Center was the outgrowth of the My Brother's Keeper initiative that was instituted by President Obama and Gloria Timmons was very active in the My Brother's Keeper initiative and had this as a special project to get the Community Center started. So I think that's certainly the first connection. But beyond that as you've already heard, been or was a very important member of the community. She had been a 20 plus year veteran of the US Army serving in the United States and overseas. She was head of the NAACP here in Nashua as well as the President of the DAV - Disabled American Veterans and here on the Board of Aldermen, also on the School Board. So given all those accomplishments as well as this direct connection with the Community Center, Alderman Lopez really suggested this and I thought it was like a great idea so we brought it forward.

Alderman Thibeault

Good to me.

Chairwoman Kelly

Good?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah.

Chairwoman Kelly

Thank you to Mr. Mayor and apparently Alderman Lopez for bringing this forward. I think it's really important when you're naming something after someone that you're honoring their legacy and I think Gloria was the true definition of community. She was always bringing people together, making sure that everybody had what they needed. When you were at an event, you just couldn't miss her. So I couldn't think of a better thing to name after her. So thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, thank you and I miss her every day that goes by here, we miss her. I miss her.

But I just wanted to give Alderman Sennott some credit too because I know he was trying to get some stuff named for her inside the Community Center and then it just became the whole thing. So I just wanted to give him props, because I know he was working on it too and that's his ward, so I just wanted to shout him out.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay, no further discussion on this?

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-26-001

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess

Alderman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez

RELATIVE TO FLAGPOLES ON CITY HALL GROUNDS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Johnson in opposition)

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Lopez

I do think a good point was made and I didn't bring it up at the beginning of last term. I don't know that it's necessary to bring every single reappointment in but I would love to see some of the Chairs, especially the more active committees come in. CTAB, for example, is doing a lot of work and it involves money. We are benefiting from, you know, public television right now. So it'd be good to give the Chairs the opportunity- even if they say like well, it's okay. Maybe do an invitation to say would you like to present at some of these meetings because we appoint these members and we get to interview the new members but I think it's important to see what the Committee has been working on. And with respect to the new members that are coming in, they don't have the kind of institutional knowledge that longer serving members would have.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, so we definitely talked about that in the last term and I know that Donna put together a full who's on what and how long they've been and invites did go out, but I definitely can make more of an effort to have people come. I think it's great to know what committees are doing and I think the liaisons to the committees can also ping me and say hey, we'd love to have them just come in and refresh because it - yeah, there's a lot of committees and a lot to learn.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair. The first term that I was on this Committee, which was I wasn't on it last term, but we had talked about it even back then because it's like, you know, I was in the same boat as Alderman Johnson where I didn't know the people we were reappointing per se. So I think if someone's been on a committee for a long time, it might be time for them to come back in. But as Committee members when we look at our packet, I think at that point we could say like, hey Richard Widhu I haven't seen him in 10 years. Maybe we should have him come by. Can we get him on the list to come by and speak?

I know last year one of the Aldermen did bring in some Zoning Board people that were up and we did re-interview them even though they're up for reappointment. So it's not a - we have done it before so I think that we just got to kind of look at our packets and ask but I definitely think we should see some people in here once in a while to get the reappointment, especially if it's been a long time so.

Chairwoman Kelly

That was pretty much the nature of the conversation we had last term was if there are people that we want to see because we haven't, that's totally within our purview. As Aldermen to ask them to come forward for reappointment and interview, I think we only had a couple but we have to make sure that that is not on a group email where everybody's talking about it because then that is a public meeting. You can request it to Donna when you get your packet and then she can ask.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. Well since we're discussing this about reappointments coming in, maybe it should be that it like

Alderman Thibeault said, that if they haven't been here in a while maybe should just be standard practice. Because especially with us newbies on board, I don't know a lot of people. I do know a lot of people in Nashua but I don't know some of the people that are sitting on the committees and you just want to get a refresher and maybe they need that refresher because, you know, they're sometimes they sit for so long you just need to kind of prop them up and say to them - why do you want to be reappointed? What have what do you feel you've accomplished let's say in the last 3 to 4 years on this board and, you know, they really need to answer that because they need to think - what have they accomplished or are they just doing it - and I don't want to be negative - but people like to do it but they really need to see why are they coming forward again in their own mind? So I think that's maybe my suggestion could be a good practice here and there. Thank you.

Chairwoman Kelly

Alright. I think we just have remarks, right? I already closed my packet.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

I think Alderman Thibeault had to his hand up too.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, it doesn't matter. I think we all...

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll call him after.

Alderman Thibeault

You can go first.

Alderman Lopez

Okay. Well we had a fire over the weekend on Main Street. I just want to thank Nashua Fire for putting it down so quickly. There were a number of people that were displaced even just a small fire like that. Thankfully, my understanding is that building sprinklers were top notch and managed to keep it from spreading but that also meant there was some damage. So I just - people need to be mindful. It's cold out. Everybody's cranking the heat. I don't know the circumstances exactly of that circumstance but I do know that we do not want to see fires in the downtown residential area. I just really want to give credit to Nashua Fire for coming out and doing everything they could sparing no attention to detail even though it was one degree out and very cold.

We just had a similar, very dramatic situation earlier today. It was not far from where I worked so I had a lot of people asking if I was all right and we evacuated the building. We were duly informed ahead of time and we follow the directions. So similar to listening to a smoke detector or a fire alarm, take it seriously every time, make sure you have your plan, make sure you're taking care of the people that need taken care of, and make the Fire Department and Police Officer's jobs as simple as possible by just getting out of their way and letting them do their thing.

Chairwoman Kelly

I was one of those people. You didn't answer me but when you walked in, I saw you were okay.

Alderman Lopez

Oh.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah I, too, want to thank the firefighters. There's been a lot of fires in the last year in the City. More than I've seen in years past and they're getting their workout and I know, you know, a couple got

injured today and it sounds like they're going to be okay which is great news. But, you know, they do a wonderful job and it's tough when it's this cold. So I thank them and hopefully no one has been hurt outside of what we've already heard.

The only other thing I got is a little worried about this flagpole legislation. I agree with it. The problem I have with it is it just passed 3 to 1. We didn't mention one thing. So I'm a little worried that when it gets to the Board, and people start discussing it, and they say well the work was done in the Committee. Well, we didn't really do any work. We just went 3 to 1. So I'm a little nervous that we didn't have that discussion. Again, maybe it's that easy. Maybe when it comes to the Board of Aldermen, it just passes 14 to 1, or 13 to 2, or whatever but that's the only thing. It went almost too easy. But that's it.

Chairwoman Kelly

I'll just respond. I think that there's that possibility but we also always have open invitations to people. I, you know, if it's on the legislation, you don't have to be a member of this Committee to come, and make your voice heard, and it's important that we try to do the work in the Committee. So if you are an Alderman and are a new Alderman and you don't understand that, you can still come to our Committee if you're not on our Committee and help us to work on it in the Committee as well. So make sure that happens.

And echoing hearts with all the firefighters. The work that they did today and those displaced at 100 Main.

Alderman Lopez

Can I just have a PR? So Greater Nashua - that was their intake office for open access. It happened today so they still need to kind of regroup and figure out what their strategy is but they do have guidance on their web page and on their social media for anybody who had appointments that were scheduled for tomorrow at 440. So definitely check in with them and see what their plan is and, you know, we'll all try to be patient with them as that planning and emergency response unfolds. This is probably very traumatic for the staff that were involved.

Chairwoman Kelly

Yeah, for sure.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I just want to say that I'm glad to hear that our firefighters who got injured are going to be okay and that what a great team we have in Nashua here between our Police and Fire and we have to thank them, which whenever I see them, I thank them. Even if they're digging out snow banks, I yell out the window, thank you and without them, we wouldn't be safe in this community. I say thank you to them and I'm glad everybody's going to be okay. It's a horrible thing. People were coming into while I was working today - did you hear what happened on Amherst Street and I said all I have is an alert. Well, you're elected. Do you have anything more? I said I don't have anything. I just have this alert. I said, that's it but I'm glad that nobody was really seriously injured. But did they find the people who they couldn't account for?

Alderman Thibeault

All the workers they did.

Alderman Johnson

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

The last thing I heard is Chief Buxton was checking the client list to make sure but he had said that everybody that works here was accounted for.

Alderman Johnson

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

As far as I know. It was on TV, so.

Alderman Johnson

I didn't get to watch TV.

Chairwoman Kelly

Okay. All set?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOPEZ TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:17 p.m.

Alderman Derek Thibeault
Committee Clerk