

**CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 30, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

October 30, 2018 Meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 10:04 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Myrtle Street, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

Councilor Pious Ali, Chair, Councilor Jill Duson, Councilor Kim Cook, Michael Sauschuck, Portland Board of Education Member Roberto Rodriguez, Portland School Superintendent Xavier Botana, Alysia Melnick, Esq., Bernstein Shur team/lobbyist, and Isabel Mullin, Esq., Bernstein Shur team/lobbyist.

B. October 10, 2018 Minutes

Councilor Cook said she would like changes to the minutes to reflect the bill submission process. Councilor Duson said the minutes should provide a description of bill review by the Committee. The Committee agreed that this should be done following a discussion between Jon Jennings and Mike Murray. The revised minutes will be voted on at the next meeting in November.

C. Alysia Melnick, Esq., BernsteinShur team/lobbyist, and Isabel Mullin, Esq., BersteinShur team/lobbyist.

Attorney Melnick said she would email the list of perennial legislative topics, which include Revenue Sharing, Local Option Sales Tax, increased state funding for education to 55%, needle exchange support, General Assistance for asylum seekers, affordable housing and more (see attached list).

Councilor Cook asked that City Staff finalize recommendations by November 5 and present its own list of legislative priorities at that meeting for Committee approval.

Attorney Melnick said bill titles are needed before December 17, when the City Council would have a list to approve for its support on its agenda.

Councilor Duson asked that a list of priorities be created to streamline the tracking list the lobbyist group assembles (see attached).

Superintendent discussed changes to the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula, and requested support for legislation for school facilities funding, construction funding and security costs.

The Arts and Technical High School is a regional School, and tuition was previously billed for students from outside of Portland. A change to the EPS has ended that, and in the future it is not clear that the City will fare under the change in the future.

Attorney Melnick said her team would be benefitted by hearing the City's response to changes that are particular to the City and thus different from statewide issues supported by the Maine Municipal Association. The City may have legislation in mind for recreational marijuana businesses, for example. Communities that host marijuana businesses will receive a percentage of the Excise tax in one bill, she said.

Councilor Duson requested a ranking system, and Attorney Melnick said she would send it. (It is attached.)

C. Next meeting will be November 5, 2018

Chair Pious Ali adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.