

Government Operations and Rules Committee Meeting

October 24, 2012

5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1). Selection process for engaging consultant services to work with the City on an in-depth "Community Visioning" process including rough timelines. Explanation of the avenues available to the Council in selecting consultants.

IFB – Invitation for Bids

GSA Approved Vendor

- 2). Information regarding visioning processes and professional searches gathered from ICMA – International City Managers Association.
- 3). Involving a true representative cross-section of the Cambridge community.... How we can best engage community stakeholders.
- 4). Developing a scope of services
- 5). Next Steps



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

E. Denise Simmons
Vice Mayor

Mayor
2008-2009

October 24, 2012

Councillor David Maher
Chair, Government Operations
& Rules Committee
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: October 24 Government Rules and Operations Meeting

Dear Chairman Maher,

While I am unfortunately unable to attend this evening's Government Operations and Rules Committee meeting, I am writing to you to share my thoughts, and to place my comments on the record. As this meeting is focused upon the hiring of our next City Manager, I would like to reiterate the three points that I raised in my September 20, 2012 letter to you (a copy of which I've included with this letter), and to update those points where appropriate:

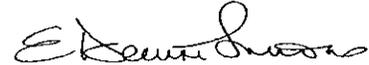
1. I wish to thank you for forming an ad-hoc committee of the whole to discuss the hiring of the next City Manager, as I had previously supported.
2. I had asked that you make an effort to provide any printed materials to the City Councilors at least 48 hours prior to the start of any meeting concerning the hiring of the next City Manager. By giving everyone a chance to review and digest these materials, we will allow for more substantive discussions going forward.
3. In my previous letter to you, I stated that, in the interest of keeping the City as a whole abreast of this process, we should make stronger efforts in terms of inviting community feedback and participation, scheduling future meetings at times and in locations that would make it easier for community members to attend, and announcing on the City's website when these meetings are taking place or have taken place, and providing more information about what has transpired at these meetings.

With regards to that third point, Councilor Kelley introduced a Council Order last Monday night that called for the same idea of posting information about this process online, and making the process more transparent and open to the entire community. I supported this concept on September 20, and I support it now. I also believe we must take pains to get as many diverse voices to weigh in on this process as possible, and making this information readily available on the City's website is a necessary first step. That said, I would like our next meeting to feature specific proposals on how we might reach out to the many diverse communities within the City, to bring their voices and perspectives into the process.

I would like to see this hiring process move forward at a quicker pace than has been the case so far, and I am in favor of us holding weekly meetings to discuss our progress, as this would likely inject a greater sense of urgency into setting regular benchmarks. As we look to hiring a search firm to assist with the process, I continue to urge that we hold a nationwide search, to cast as wide a net as possible to find the most suitable pool of candidates for this most important job.

Once again, I thank you for reviewing the suggestions I have made, and I very much look forward to the next meeting to discuss the path forward in the hiring of the next City Manager.

Sincerely,



Vice Mayor E. Denise Simmons