



# City of Melrose Legal & Legislative Committee

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7:00 PM  
City Council Chamber, 1st Floor  
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

## AGENDA

### NOTE:

To watch this meeting live visit [mmtv3.org](http://mmtv3.org) or local cable station MMTV (Channels 3, 15, 22 on Comcast or Channels 37, 38, 39 on Verizon)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Manjula Karamcheti Vice Chair  
Cal Finocchiaro  
Elizabeth Kowal  
Kimberly Vandiver  
Brad Freeman President, Ex Officio Member  
Maya Jamaledine Chair

### II. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Legal & Legislative Meeting November 24, 2025 7:30 PM

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

When: Jan 20, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Legal & Legislative Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://cityofmelrose-org.zoom.us/j/95331852026?pwd=v0tkdTjEGOes0s0AF67eHG0agls8B4.1>

Passcode:828534

Webinar ID: 953 3185 2026

### IV. ORDINANCES

- A. **(ID # 2025-613):** Revise the existing Animal Leash Law to REMOVE this language :  
The Animal Control Officer may, at his/her discretion, waive the provisions of Subsection A if a determination is made that the owner or keeper has a valid reason to have the dog unleashed or untethered for training, exhibition or show purposes.  
[Amended 8-21-2017 by Ord. No. 2018-4]
- B. **(ID # 2026-10):** Amending Chapter A, Article II, Section 210 of the Administrative Code of the City of Melrose to expand the authority of the Historical

Commission to include regulatory authority as necessary for demolition review.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Melrose does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings and events. Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Melrose or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Polina Latta [platta@cityofmelrose.org](mailto:platta@cityofmelrose.org).

**§ 93-6. Leashing requirements. [Amended 5-20-2002 by Ord. No. 02-324]**

- A. No person shall own or keep in the City, outside the confines of the owner's or keeper's property, any dog that is not held firmly on a leash.
- B. **REMOVE this language :** The Animal Control Officer may, at his/her discretion, waive the provisions of Subsection A if a determination is made that the owner or keeper has a valid reason to have the dog unleashed or untethered for training, exhibition or show purposes. **[Amended 8-21-2017 by Ord. No. 2018-4]**
- C. Violation of this section shall be punishable as follows:
- (1) First offense, unaltered or altered: fine of \$50.
  - (2) Second offense, unaltered or altered: fine of \$100.
  - (3) Third offense: \$150.
  - (4) Apprehension: \$10.
  - (5) Confinement: \$10 per day.
  - (6) Kennels: \$100.
  - (7) Seeing eye dogs: no fees.
- D. Exemptions. Dogs will be permitted to go without leashes only within areas designated as "off-leash dog areas" as determined by the Board of Park Commissioners in accordance with § 173-17, provided that: **[Added 6-4-2012 by Ord. No. 2012-180]**
- (1) All dogs are leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the off-leash dog area.
  - (2) All dogs must be accompanied by a guardian who must remain with his/her dog(s) at all times while using the off-leash dog area.
  - (3) Guardians are legally responsible for their dog(s) and any injuries caused by their dog(s).
  - (4) Guardians may bring no more than three dogs to the off-leash dog area at one time.
  - (5) Guardians must dispose of their dog's fecal matter in accordance with § 93-8.
  - (6) The following dogs are forbidden from entry into the off-leash dog areas:
    - (a) Dogs in heat.
    - (b) Dogs less than six months of age.
    - (c) Dogs without municipal licenses and up-to-date vaccinations.

(d) Aggressive dogs. Any dog that engages in fighting or that does not respond to voice

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1. **Editor's Note: The line "Adoption: all fees and expenses" which immediately followed this subsection in Ord. No. 02-324 was deleted per instructions from the City as superseded by Ord. No. 02-102. See § 93-11.**

command.



## CITY OF MELROSE

Legal Department

**Shannon T. Phillips**  
*City Solicitor*  
[sphillips@cityofmelrose.org](mailto:sphillips@cityofmelrose.org)

City Hall, 562 Main Street  
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176  
Telephone (781) 979-4184

To: Mayor Jennifer Grigoraitis  
From: Shannon T. Phillips  
Subject: Amending Chapter A, Article II, Section 210 of the Administrative Code (Historical Commission)  
Date: January 6, 2026

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### **Amending Chapter A, Article II, Section 210 of the Administrative Code of the City of Melrose as follows:**

#### **§ A-210. Historical Commission**

State law reference: MGL c. 40, § 8D.

A. Established. There shall be a Historical Commission consisting of seven members.

B. Authorities and responsibilities. The Historical Commission preserves, protects, and develops the historical and archaeological assets of the City. The Commission may conduct research for places of historic and archaeological value. The Commission may, subject to appropriation and approval by the Mayor, advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it deems necessary for its work. The Commission, for the purpose of protecting and preserving such places, may make such recommendations as it deems necessary to the Mayor and, subject to the approval of the City Council, to the Massachusetts Historical Commission that any such place be certified as a historical or archaeological landmark. The Commission surveys and compiles a listing of all historical sites and buildings within the City, public and private; determines the functions and structures of all historical organizations within the City; and holds correlative seminars with historical organizations. It further determines the requirements for repair, reconstruction, and protection of historical landmarks, **is responsible for conducting demolition review as set forth by City ordinance**, and assists and cooperates with public commissions in the conduct of public historical events. The Commission has all of the other powers, duties and responsibilities that are given to historical commissions by the General Laws.

C. The Historical Commission is an advisory multiple-member body of the City, and a regulatory multiple-member body only insofar as is necessary to conduct demolition review per City ordinance.



# CITY OF MELROSE

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JENNIFER GRIGORAITIS

*Mayor*

City Hall, 562 Main Street  
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176  
Telephone - (781) 979-4440

To: Melrose City Council  
From: Mayor Jen Grigoraitis  
Re: Amending Chapter A, Article II, Section 210 of the City's Administrative Code  
Date: January 7, 2026

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Please accept this memo in line with Section 5-1<sup>1</sup> of the City Charter regarding Order 2026-10 Amending Chapter A, Article II, Section 210 of the City's Administrative Code

As a result of the recent passage of a Demolition Review Ordinance (Order 2025-571) as adopted by a vote of the City Council on December 1, 2025 an amendment to the City's Administrative Code needs to be made, allowing the Historical Commission to have the regulatory authority over the demolition delay process as contemplated by the ordinance. The changes to the administrative code are outlined via the memo from the City Solicitor attached to Order 2026-10.

Please note as part of the process outlined in Section 5-1 of the City Charter, the City Council shall hold at least one public hearing on the proposal and does not have the authority to Amend this Order.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ecode360.com/35250804#35250805>