

NOTE ON WARD COMMITTEES TO BE CONSTITUTED IN EACH WARD OF BANGALORE

BACKGROUND: One of the mandatory reforms undertaken by the State Governments under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was to enact a law providing for community / citizen participation in Municipal Corporations having a population exceeding three lakhs. It required the establishment of a three tier structure of governance at the level of Municipal Council, Ward Committee and Area Sabha. The Karnataka State Government enacted an Act on 4th February 2011, called the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Act, 2011, giving effect to the same. However, most of the Ward Committees for the 198 wards in Bangalore, had not been constituted for many years till The High Court of Karnataka passed an order on 25th April 2017, asking BBMP to constitute the same within a month. BBMP is acting seriously on the same now.

FUNCTIONS: The Ward Committee in each ward is expected to play a very important role in the development of the respective ward. The scope ranges from preparing a plan for allotment of funds to ensuring proper utilization of the same, covering water supply, sewerage system maintenance, solid waste management, sanitation work, street lighting, rain water harvesting, maintenance of parks etc. In addition, the Ward Committee can approve the list of eligible & ineligible beneficiaries for various schemes of the Corporation apart from supervising the same.

COMPOSITION: Each Ward Committee will have 11 members, comprising the Councillor of the Ward who will be the Chairperson and ten other members to be nominated by the Corporation, with at least two individual SC/ST members, three women, and two registered associations.

TENURE: The tenure of the Ward Committee will be co-terminus with the term of the BBMP Councillors. The current Council was elected in 2015 and hence the term of the Ward Committee to be constituted will end together with the Council in the year 2020.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION: Any individual who is a registered voter of a particular ward is eligible to be a member of the Ward Committee of that ward. Any Association registered for at least 3 years, with its registered office in the ward is also eligible to be a member of the Ward Committee.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION: There is no process outlined by BBMP for nomination, hence BAF prescribes the following process. An individual applying for nomination can fill up the enclosed application form relevant to individuals and submit the same to the BBMP Commissioner together with a copy of Voter ID Card and / or an extract of the electoral roll of the ward, which shows that he / she is from that ward. The electoral roll can be downloaded from the website of the State Election Commission or one could apply for an extract of the electoral roll from the Asst. Revenue Officer (ARO) of the ward. An Association applying for nomination can fill up the enclosed application form relevant to associations, and submit the same to the BBMP Commissioner, together with a copy of the Memorandum of Association or Certificate of Registration.

WHAT IF I DO NOT GET NOMINATED: Even if you don't get nominated as a member of the Ward Committee, you, RWAs and other organizations can attend Ward Committee meetings to be held every month along with other citizens of the ward, as all meetings are open to the public. The date and time of the meeting are to be announced in all public offices in the ward. You can observe the meetings but cannot participate or ask questions. Any grievances can be submitted to the Councillor one week before the meeting. The minutes of the meetings are to be published. The Ward Secretary is to give an Action Taken Report at the next meeting. Action can be taken on officials not implementing the resolutions of the Ward Committee, unless it is due to lack of funds.

MODE OF APPLYING: The application may be handed over in person at the BBMP Office with an acknowledgment received. Alternatively, the application can be sent to the BBMP Commissioner with a copy sent to the respective ward Councillor, through registered post too. In addition, an email can be sent to comm@bbmp.gov.in & palikebangaluru@gmail.com.

DEADLINE: The last date to send applications to the BBMP Commissioner is 15th May.

Details of all BBMP Councillors – <http://bbmp.gov.in/en/web/guest/wardwisecounciliesdetails>

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