



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

November 19, 2012

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
William M. Roche	Vice Chair	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Thomas Pasquarello	Chief of Police	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Asst. City Solicitor	Present	
Eddie Nuzzo	Supt., ISD	Present	
Omar Boukili	Aide to Mayor	Present	

**192100 - That this Board requests that the Administration update this Board on actions proposed and taken regarding the negative impact of activities, lighting, and noise on the quality of life in the neighborhoods abutting Conway Park and the Skating Rink.:**

Sound barriers to reduce the noise caused by the compressors will be installed by December. Mr. Boukili discussed the proposed parking plan and will submit same to the committee for review. Mr. Boukili also spoke about improved relations with the neighborhood and Alderman Roche commented on the improvements with the rink's new management.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**192180 - That the Administration inform the Committee on Public Health and Safety when the parking plan for the skating rink is ready.:**

Same as 192100, above.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**192181 - That the Commissioner of Public Works submit a lighting plan for the skating rink to the Committee on Public Health and Safety.:**

Same as 192100, above.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**192433 - That the Director of SPCD (ISD) inform this Board of the steps planned to ensure construction at Assembly Square is in keeping with the building codes, in light of the recent fire in Quincy at a development constructed by Avalon Bay.:**

Mr. Nuzzo informed the members that Avalon Bay will install the latest fire suppression equipment.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**192589 - That the City Solicitor and Commissioner of Public Works appear before this Board's Committee on Public Health and Safety to discuss the city's application for a variance before the Architectural Access Board regarding 50 pedestrian facilities #V11-201.:**

Mr. Shapiro spoke about a 4-year plan to mediate the subject streets and crosswalks.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**

**192737 - That this Board's Committee on Public Health and Safety arrange for representatives of Riverside Community Care aka Somerville Mental Health Association, to appear before the Committee to explain where the programs are and how the City can assist them.:**

Representatives from Riverside Community Care were unable to attend this meeting and have requested that a meeting be scheduled for January, if possible.

**RESULT:**

**KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**193570 - That the Chief of Police increase enforcement of bicycle regulations in the city's business districts.:**

Mr. Greg Hill showed a video of bicycles being ridden on sidewalks and asked that a public safety campaign be undertaken to prohibit bicycle riding on sidewalks. The committee discussed various methods of disseminating the information and Chairman White suggested that violators be subject to losing their Hubway memberships.

Chief Pasquarello stated that the Police Department is enforcing the prohibition of motor vehicles travelling in the bicycle lanes, in an effort to keep bicyclists safe. Chief Pasquarello and Mr. Shapiro spoke about the mechanics of enforcing the collection of fines and Chairman White

requested that the Law Department examine the city's ordinances with respect to state regulations on this matter. Chairman White also requested that the Law Department examine the City of Cambridge's ordinance on this subject, as well.

**RESULT:****KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**193650 - That the Commissioner of Public Works create curb cuts on the western side of the intersection of Willow Avenue and Beech Street, heading up Willow Avenue, and that the Director of Traffic and Parking evaluate the sight lines on Beech Street, at the crosswalk at Elm Street, and that this matter be referred for a full vetting by the Committee on Public Health and Safety.:**

Chairman White's motion that the Director of Traffic and Parking investigate the legality of the crosswalks at Willow Avenue, Elm Street and Beech Street, was approved.

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**

**193765 - That this Board requests that the Administration provide information regarding the noise-reduction installation schedule at the new Conway Park skating rink, and review the parking restrictions behind the building.:**

Same as 192100, above.

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**

**193886 - That the Commissioner of Public Works appear before the Committee on Public Health and Safety to speak on baiting requirements for street openings.:**

Alderman Roche's motion that the City Solicitor research the city's current ordinances relative to street openings to determine whether provisions are included regarding baiting for rodent control, and if not, amend the ordinance to do so, was approved.

**RESULT:****WORK COMPLETED**