



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

November 3, 2011

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
John M Connolly	Vice Chair	Absent	
Walter F. Pero	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
George Proakis	OSPCD	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Asst. City Solicitor	Present	
James Halloran	Supt. of Youth & Recreation	Present	
Stan Koty	DPW Commissioner	Present	
Jackyln Rossetti	Communications	Present	
Thomas Champion	Director of Communications	Present	

190999 - That this Board's Committee on Public Health and Public Safety once again address the safety of the abandoned building at 82 Pearson Avenue, which remains in disrepair.:

Mr. Proakis informed the committee that the property has been identified as a 3-family house and that it has been put up for sale by the receiver.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

191733 - That the Director of Communications update this Board regarding the July 7 phone outage that affected the Fire Dept. and explain what steps have been taken to ensure it will not happen again.:

Mr. Champion assured the members that there was no loss of communication within the department since there are multiple alternative methods of communicating available, if needed.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

192035 - That the City Solicitor and the Administration explore the legality and feasibility of banning HAZMAT trucks from driving through the City.:

Mr. Shapiro updated the committee on his research on this matter and stated that the City could apply for bans in certain neighborhoods, however, an outright ban cannot be imposed.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

192046 - That the Director of SPCD dispatch the Neighborhood Inspection Team to 113-115 Hillsdale Road to examine the property for code violations.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192047 - That the Director of SPCD (ISD) inspect 100-102 West Adams Street for overcrowding.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192048 - That the City Solicitor contact the owner of 100-102 West Adams Street regarding overcrowding.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192056 - That the Commissioner of Public Works, or his representative, attend the next meeting of the Public Health and Safety Committee to discuss further measures to reduce the noise of the freezer fan at the Winter Hill Community School.:

Alderman Pero stated that the fence installed to block the sound was not effective. Mr. Koty will visit the site to investigate other possible options.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192058 - That this Board requests that a representative from the Administration appear before the Public Health and Safety Committee to provide an update on the proposed Bicycle/Pedestrian Public Safety Campaign.:

Ms. Rossetti spoke about recent bicycle safety meetings, signage and discussions with CAMUSA and explained that delays have been the result of recent personnel changes in key positions. Mr. Hill, a resident of the city, spoke about the dangers of bicycling on sidewalks and he introduced a video on that subject. Lt. Donovan spoke about the problem of ticketing for bicycling violations and noted that the cost of enforcement is more than the \$20 fine. Chairman White requested that

the Police Chief appear before the committee with a plan for enforcement for the spring of 2012. The item will remain in committee for further discussion in February.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

192096 - That the Committee on Public Health and Safety place Albion Park and its related noise issues on the next possible agenda to discuss lighting and basketball play at all hours of the night.:

Mr. Bucca, who lives near Albion Park, addressed the committee and spoke about the problems with the lighting at the park, with the consumption of alcohol there, and with people driving to the park to play basketball in the park well after 10:00 pm. He would like to have the 10:00 PM curfew imposed and to have the park patrolled by police. Alderman O'Donovan addressed the issue of the parking lot lights abutting the park and informed the members that the owner of the property is being cooperative. Chairman White directed that the police be more active in their enforcement and inform violators that they are trespassing and could be arrested if they violate the closing hours in the future.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

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.:

Residents expressed concerns about a 10:00 PM curfew at the park and about parking at the rink. Mr. Halloran spoke about a parking plan for the area and Mr. Koty stated that the lights are on automatic timers and can be adjusted, if necessary.

Chairman White's motion *that the Administration inform the committee when the parking plan for the rink is ready,* was approved.

Chairman White's motion *that the Commissioner of Public Works submit a lighting plan for the rink to the committee,* was approved.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE