



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

CLERK OF COMMITTEES

August 4, 2011

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Vice Chair	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Absent	
William M. Roche	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Sean T. O'Donovan	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Joseph Curtatone	Mayor	Present	
Janice Delory	Chief of Staff	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Frank Wright	City Solicitor	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Assistant City Solicitor	Present	
Robert Collins	Assistant City Solicitor	Present	
Sarah Kloos	Director of Personnel	Present	
Michael Meehan	Director of Communications	Present	
Pat Haraden	Consultant, Longfellow Benefits	Present	

191787 - Requesting to amend the city's health insurance benefits by transferring to the Group Insurance Commission (GIC):

Chairman Heuston read a communication from Alderman Gerwitz, who stated that she is disappointed with the process (regarding the GIC proposal) and that she would be out of state when the next meetings are held on this matter.

Mr. Shapiro submitted a letter regarding the "Rule of Necessity" and reviewed the provisions of the State Ethics Commission's Advisory 05-05, dealing with this rule. This rule may need to be invoked in order for members of the Finance Committee and/or the Board of Aldermen to vote on the GIC proposal.

Mayor Curtatone explained a discrepancy in the deadline date and told the members that the process has not been rushed, however, in order for the city to realize a savings of \$2.3 million, the proposal must be acted on by October 1, 2011. Solicitor Wright reviewed the process timeline and the steps necessary to achieve the October 1st deadline.

Ms. Kloos explained how information is being provided to active and retired employees and stated that there are approximately 3,000 current employees and 1,600 retirees eligible. Mr. Haraden reviewed the savings of the GIC option versus a plan design option and spoke about deductibles, co-pays, rate increases and mitigation for subscribers to help offset costs.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE
