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December 12, 2006

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES ON CAPITAL PLANNING
AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Committees on Capital Planning and Public Health and Public Safety, held a Joint Meeting on December 12, 2006, with Chairmen Sean O'Donovan and Dennis Sullivan presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William White and Walter Pero also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Thomas Taylor, Bruce Desmond, Maryann Heuston and Rebekah Gewirtz, Steve Winslow from SPCD, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Terry Smith from Traffic and Parking, Walter Matos and Greg Hill.

Chairman Sullivan told the members that it is his intention to hold a public hearing in February on the matter of pedestrian/bicycle safety.

Mr. Winslow distributed a handout and gave a brief history of the city's pedestrian and bicycle safety initiative, dubbed "Safe-Start" informing the members that input was received from multiple departments and areas of the city, as well as from state agencies, in an effort to come up with recommendations. Some of Safe-Start's proposals are to encourage development to be transportation friendly, to make streets safer so people would walk and bicycle more. Safe-Start has identified 27 locations around the city that are identified as high crash sites and has identified school and senior area, higher speed locations, intersections and locations with signal issues and traffic corridors. The Traffic and Parking Department as well as the DPW have made some immediate improvements, e.g., installing 60 new, brighter cross walk signs and utilizing bright sticks and reflective stop signs. In addition, the School Department distributed safety brochures to all students.

Long-term safety improvements include installing pedestrian countdown lights when traffic signals are upgraded, continuing with the distribution of safety brochures in the city's schools each year, providing for pedestrian safety in construction zones, working with DCR to make roadways safer, installing traffic calming tables and ADA ramps, installing bollards near elementary school entrances and developing gateway signs and elements. Mr. Winslow said that the overall cost to the city could be \$4.4 to \$4.7 million (over a 5-year period).

Alderman Heuston said that the amenities are useful, but the timing of signals and traffic patterns might be more important. Mr. Winslow noted that task force did look at that aspect, but realized that those things might need to be done at a higher level.

Alderman Pero requested that the Chief of Police and/or the Director of Traffic and Parking forward a report summarizing the number of citations issued for the 3 month periods prior to and subsequent to the installation of the pedestrian crossing markers at the 14 locations around the city.

Chairman Sullivan's motion, submitted on behalf of Alderman Taylor, *that the Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Committee visit the city's senior buildings to receive input from the residents there and report back to Public Health and Public Safety Committee* was approved by a vote of 2 in favor to 0 against.

Chairman Sullivan's motion, submitted on behalf of Alderman Taylor, *that the date for the public hearing on this matter be scheduled for March, 2007 and that the Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Committee's report be posted on the city's website* was approved on a vote of 2 in favor to 0 against.

Chairman Sullivan scheduled the public hearing for Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

The Committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

182233: Communication from Mayor - Requesting to appear before a joint meeting of the Public Health and Safety/Capital Planning Committees to present pedestrian and bicycle safety recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

Sean T. O'Donovan, Chairman
Committee on Capital Planning

Dennis M. Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committees on Capital Planning
and Public Health and Public Safety,
December 12, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk