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February 24, 2010

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee on Confirmation of Appointments held a meeting on February 24, 2010, with Vice Chairman William Roche presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Thomas Taylor, Dennis Sullivan and John Connolly (appointed for this meeting) also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Maryann Heuston, William White and Walter Pero, Administrative Assistants Janice Delory and Matt Dias, Personnel Director Jessie Baker, Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, Assistant City Solicitors Robert Collins and Matt Buckley John Gannon, Mr. & Mrs. Sean O'Brien, Andrew Puglia and the herein named candidates for appointment.

Mr. Buckley discussed the fire department reserve list and the process of creating a certified list. He explained that the current certified list was created on September 9, 2009 and that this creates a conditional offer of employment. He went on to state that the city has certain obligations to those on the list. Ms. Baker discussed the advantages that the city gains by having a reserve list. She stated that it expedites the process of filling vacancies on the fire department. Alderman White and Alderman Taylor inquired as to what order candidates from the reserve list are chosen and how they are prioritized. Ms. Baker explained that it is the discretion of the Administration and the criteria which is considered is veterans status, test results and background checks. She also explained the reasons why some candidates are removed from the list. Mr. Collins discussed the differences in the selection process between civil service and the current band system. Alderman Sullivan expressed his concerns about situations where the reserve list does not contain enough good candidates and how a new list can be created. Several aldermen specifically asked how the Administration would pull from a reserve list.

Alderman Desmond's motion **that the Committee on Confirmation of Appointments requests that the Mayor consider calling for another certified list for the reserve firefighters list** was approved.

Alderman Desmond's motion **that the Mayor ask for a reserve list of one candidate when the current list is closed**, was approved.

Mr. Andrew Puglia spoke on behalf of his son-in-law, Sean O'Brien. Mr. Puglia opined that Mr. O'Brien, who is first on the Somerville Firefighter list, is being treated unfairly because he was not included in the listed of candidates going before the committee this evening. He explained that Mr. O'Brien was in Iraq and was not able to take the test until he returned. He discussed the city's several requests for extensions of the current list. He also suggested supplementing the certification by adding names to the list or in the alternative, letting the current list expire. He stated that although Mr. O'Brien is number 1 on the eligible list, he has no appeal rights. Alderman White questioned how a supplemental list would impact the hiring of the current candidates. Ms. Baker stated she does not have the authority to insert people onto the certified list. Chief Kelleher explained that there is a long waiting list for admittance to the fire academy

and he discussed how the reserve list helps the city get candidates into the academy. He also spoke about the way a reserve list saves the city money in overtime pay.

The Committee interviewed candidates for the positions described within, and took action on the following 10 items:

**188813:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint David Farino as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188814:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Keith McInnis as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188815:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Christopher Clark as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188816:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Sean Layton as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188817:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Robert Galvin as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188818:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Ryan Layton as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188819:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Jay McKenzie as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188820:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Thomas Medeiros as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188821:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint Timothy O'Hearn as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

**188822:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appoint David Pantanella as a Firefighter on the Reserve List.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

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William M. Roche, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Confirmation of Appointments