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November 27, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on November 27, 2007, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Finance Director Ed Bean, Monica Lamboy and Mark Friedman from SPCD and Asst. City Solicitor Robert Collins.

Mr. Tranfaglia discussed the request for an appropriation to fund the relocation and travel expenses for the incoming Police Chief and explained that this is a common practice when a nation-wide search is undertaken. Alderman Trane requested that the Personnel department provide the committee with a breakdown of the expenses in question and Alderman Gewirtz expressed her concern about paying such expenses prior to the new Police Chief being confirmed. The item will be reworded and submitted to the Board of Aldermen on December 13th.

Ms. Lamboy addressed the members regarding vacant positions within the Planning Department and stressed the need to attract experienced individuals and to facilitate internal promotions to avoid the turnover of personnel that has been experienced in the recent past.

Mr. Bean spoke about 3 requests to accept funds from IKEA, totaling \$1.35 million, to be used to finance the Assembly Square Stabilization Fund, for traffic mitigation on lower Broadway and for legal expenses incurred for the development of Assembly square.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 5 items:

184479: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a supplemental appropriation of \$13,379 to the Personnel Reimbursement/Allowances Acct. to fund relocation and travel expenses for Police Chief designate Anthony Holloway.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184482: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to use available funds of

\$4,547 from the Planning Dept. General Fund to increase the pay for a vacant planner position, and to authorize an increase in the pay for a vacant senior planner and another planning position, all to \$54,000 per year, funded by CDBG funds.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184559: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the acceptance of \$1,000,000 from IKEA for the Assembly Sq. Stabilization Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184560: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the acceptance of \$250,000 from IKEA to reimburse the city for legal expenses incurred from 2004 to 2006 for Assembly Sq. development.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184561: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the acceptance of \$100,000 from IKEA to establish a new Stabilization Fund under MGL c40 s5B to be known as the East Somerville Stabilization Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
November 27, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk