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November 26, 2007

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee on Housing and Community Development held a meeting on November 26, 2007 with Chairman Rebekah Gewirtz presiding and Committee member Alderman William White also present and voting. Also present were Library Director Nancy Milnor, ADA Coordinator Eileen Feldman and Kathy Boulaise from SPCD.

Ms. Milnor addresses the matter of accessibility for disabled persons at the West Branch Library and told the members that the city hired a private contractor to examine the facility who said that it would be in the city's best interest to hire a contractor who could perform an accessibility survey to determine specifically what construction would be needed to bring the library into compliance with a 1993 Federal law that mandates ADA compliance. The cost of the survey would be approximately \$7,500 and Ms. Milnor indicated that there might be funds available through Community Block Grants (CBG) to begin the process of bringing the city's libraries into compliance. Ms. Golden told the members that there are over 2,200 disabled residents in the College Ave. area, as reported through census data, and that the library can service only 700 residents through its outreach programs.

Ms. Boulaise addressed the matter of an Orange Line MBTA stop at Assembly square and told the members that the process begins with the MBTA sending a letter to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding their determination as it pertains to the Very Small Starts Program and whether or not the city would be exempt. The FTA would send its reply to the MBTA. The city would have a limited role in the overall process.

Alderman White's motion **that the Director of Strategic Planning and Community Development provide the Committee on Housing and Community Development with a written response stating what the time line would be for construction of an Orange Line MBTA stop at Assembly square after all of the Federal Transit Administration and Assembly Square requirements have been completed**, was approved.

No papers were acted on.

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Alderman Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Chairman  
Committee on Housing and Community Development

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Housing and  
Community Development, November 26,  
2007

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk