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August 9, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LICENSES AND PERMITS

The Committee on Licenses and Permits convened on August 9, 2006, with Chairman Bruce Desmond presiding and Committee Member Alderman William Roche, (who was appointed to the committee for this meeting by President Maryann Heuston), also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz and Walter Pero as well as several interested members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Trustees of Tufts College – New Garage License

Mr. Mitch Bodnarchuk, Director of Construction Management at Tufts University, spoke in favor of the petition and explained the need for this new garage and stated that it would be secured and screened from the neighbors' view. He reviewed the plans and layout of the facility with the members and said that the project is near completion.

Michael Payne, Rosemary Macero, Rita Kelley, Michael Bousquet and David Reynolds spoke in opposition to the petition, citing the following concerns:

- Tufts held only 1 neighborhood meeting to discuss their plans with neighbors
- Tufts did not notify all the neighbors of the meetings
- The entire structure is not bermed
- The ventilation opening will allow noise from vehicles to pollute the neighborhood
- There is a large amount of illumination coming from the structure and its surrounding area
- Traffic on Powderhouse Blvd. Would become more congested if vehicles are allow to exit the facility onto the Blvd.
- The area has been known to flood during severe storms, such as Hurricane Bob, and residents are concerned about runoff from the facility increasing the possibility of flooding
- Approximately 25 years ago, Tufts promised that they would not build any closer to the Blvd.

Barbara Rubel, from Tufts' Community Relations Department, stated that Tufts was under no obligation to hold neighborhood meetings but that they hand delivered notices to area residents informing them of a meeting, in order to get input from the community. Ms. Rubel stated that only a few residents attended. Relative to the mailing for the Public Hearing, Tufts mailed out 170 notices and received 113 delivery confirmations. Regarding the promise not to build closer to the Blvd., Ms. Rubel stated that Tufts did make an agreement about 20 years ago to keep the playing field open as a playing field and open space for school and community use. The area now in question is not included in that section of land.

Mr. Bodnarchuk said that the landscaping is not complete yet and that there is a landscape plan in place for the structure. As far as the lighting goes, it is consistent with what is considered safe for this type of structure. Student parking is staggered, so noise pollution should not be an issue. Drainage has been addressed by tying into the existing drainage system, which has been updated.

Alderman Roche asked that the City Traffic Engineer review the schematic and provide an opinion to the committee. He also asked the residents to provide the committee with any information supporting the claim that Tufts wouldn't build closer to the Blvd. Chairman Desmond requested that the Inspectional Services Department provide the committee with further information regarding the drainage and construction issues.

Christian Fellowship of Boston – Occupancy of Public Property

A representative stated that arrangements have been made to clean up after the event
There were no speakers in opposition.

Advantage Auto Body Repair – New Garage License

Mr. Jean Joseph, proprietor of Advantage Auto Body, spoke in favor of the petition. He told the members that the notice he sent to abutters stated that the Public Hearing would be held at 6:00 PM. Mr. Joseph said that auto body repair would be done on the premises, but that no painting would be done there. He also told the members that all vehicles would be parked inside the building, including employees' vehicles, of which he is the only one at the present time. Alderman Roche reviewed several question on the application with Mr. Joseph to clarify his responses. Mr. Joseph said that he sold his prior business in Cambridge and that he had no problems with neighbors or the City of Cambridge.

Alderman Roche submitted a letter and a petition from residents who are opposed to this license. He also stated that he received several phone calls from residents who were also opposed to it, as the location is right in the middle of a residential area.

Steve Martorano spoke in opposition and stated that the notice he received from Mr. Joseph had a 7:00 PM time for the Public Hearing. He also stated that 10 cars seems like too many vehicles for the site and he noted that the street is only 1 vehicle wide, so a tow truck would obstruct traffic.

Fred DiFillipo spoke in opposition and state that parking in the area is at a premium and that 10 cars is too many for that site.

Cambridge Rental Equipment – New Garage License

Ms. Sandy Beckner spoke on behalf of Cambridge Rental Equipment. She told the members that the company rents party equipment and is also a drop off point for Penske rental trucks, and that that's what the license is for.

Alderman Roche said that the company has not been a good neighbor over the years and has caused traffic problems. He also said that the site is not always clean and he asked Ms. Beckner to come up with a plan

to keep the area clean and free of traffic congestion. Ms. Beckner replied that they are working to get vehicles off the street within 30 minutes.

Alderman Roche suggested that Ms. Beckner contact Aldermen Taylor and Heuston to discuss the matter.

In other matters before the committee, Alderman Pero asked, Mr. Riskalla, the owner of ABJ Foreign Auto Supply to explain his request to extend his business hours. Mr. Riskalla informed the members that he is often there late to do paperwork and to allow customers to pick up their vehicles during the week. Saturday, he said, is for catching up with unfinished business and to handle additional work. He stated that he has been operating the business at that location for 25 years and that he was not aware of limitations on business hours. Alderman Pero recommended adjusting the Saturday hours to 2:00 PM. Mr. Riskalla asked that a notation be made on the license stating that the business hours also apply to personal vehicles of employees

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 10 items:

181046: Renewal of Garage License, ABJ Foreign Auto Supply Inc., 91 Marshall St., 30 autos, M-Sat. 8-7.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions (Hours of operation: M – F 8:00 Am to 6:00 PM, customers allowed to pick up vehicles until 7:00 PM; Saturday – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM; no work to be performed on any vehicles after hours, including employees' vehicles)

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181109: Comcast for a Grant of Location to install 57 ft. of conduit at 22 Glen St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions (That the Supt. of Lines, Lights and Highways grant his approval)

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181110: RCN-Becocom for a Grant of Location to install 57 ft. of conduit at 22 Glen St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions (That the Supt. of Lines, Lights and Highways grant his approval)

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181111: Verizon for a Grant of Location to install 57 ft. of conduit at 22 Glen St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions (That the Supt. of Lines, Lights and Highways grant his approval)

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181234: Boston Edison for a Grant of Location to install 95 ft. of conduit at 22 Glen St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions (That the Supt. of Lines, Lights and Highways grant his approval)

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181417: Occupancy of Public Property - Christian Fellowship of Boston Music Fest, Conway Park, Sept. 23 4-8PM.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181498: New Garage License, Advantage Auto Body Repair, 56 Bonair St., 10 autos.

RECOMMENDATION: Should Not be Approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181519: Grant of Location - Comcast for a Grant of Location to install 30 ft. of conduit at 205 Washington St.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved with conditions

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181613: Flammable License - Renewal - Internap Network Services Corp., 70 Inner Belt Rd., 7,500 gallons.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

181614: Flammable License - Renewal - Broadway Henry LLC, 38-44 Broadway, 6,256 gallons.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

Alderman Bruce M. Desmond, Chairman
Committee on Licenses and Permits

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Licenses and Permits,
August 9, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk