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November 13, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on November 13, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William Roche, Rebekah Gewirtz and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Solicitor John Gannon, Chief of Staff Michael Lambert, Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce, Richard Rogers from the Greater Boston Labor Council, Kevin Douglas from Russell Disposal, John Laughlin, James McCallum and Jack Listes.

Mr. Lambert made a brief presentation of the Administration's proposed Responsible Employer Ordinance and Mr. Gannon told the members that there are 15 other communities that have such an ordinance. Mr. Gannon has been working on a draft of the ordinance and presented the preamble to the committee. He informed the members that the difference from state law lies in the ability for the city to have oversight of the ordinance.

Mr. Rogers addressed the members and explained how this ordinance would protect Somerville residents from unfair and unscrupulous contractors while improving the lives of workers, enabling some of them to work in their hometown.

Alderman Roche's motion that the Administration post a fact sheet on this issue to the city's website, for the public's information, was approved.

Chairman Taylor stated that a Public Hearing on this matter would be scheduled for January 2008.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 2 items:

183732: Communication - Veteran's Services Director and Chairman of the Dedication Commission responding to #183585 re: renaming the High School Concourse.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184333: Ordinance - By Ald. Taylor, That Ordinance 3-3 be amended by striking the word "pigeons" and inserting in place thereof, the word "birds".

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters,
November 13, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk