

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

February 27, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on February 27, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz, William Roche and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen William White, Maryann Heuston and Sean O'Donovan as well as Michael Lambert the Mayor's Office, Veterans Services Director Frank Senesi, City Solicitor John Gannon, David Webster and Chuck Campion from Federal Realty and Chairman of the Licensing Board Andrew Upton.

178072 – Liquor Licenses

Mr. Upton told the members that in order to have an active retail market and smart growth, liquor licenses are needed. He is appreciative of the fact that the licenses would be non-transferable and he stated that if this Home Rule Petition helps to move the development of Assembly Square along, then he is in favor of it. Mr. Upton told the members that Somerville is under its license quota and that even if all the proposed licenses were approved, the city would still be under its quota. He said that the level of scrutiny given by the licensing commission would be the same with the overall character of the applicant being the most important criteria. Mr. Upton told the members that an applicant's CORI and financial checks are performed by the ABCC.

Mr. Gannon provided the committee with information regarding fees and existing quotas and stated that there is nothing in writing from the ABCC, but based on the population of 77,478, the quota system says that the city is entitled to 83 all forms licenses. Mr. Gannon noted that the City of Somerville has been removed from quota system and that the home rule petition would bring the city nearly to where it would be under the quota system and would allow the city to make them non-transferable.

Chairman Taylor stated his intention to schedule a public hearing on the matter.

182234 and 182477 - Memorials

Mr. Senesi provided the committee with a listing of all memorial and dedicated square locations and discussed the criteria used by the Veterans Commission when recommending an individual for a memorial

or square dedication. A discussion followed regarding the possible inclusion of individuals who are not veterans. Chairman Taylor will refer 182234 to solicitor for an opinion to as to whether or not individuals other than veterans can be included.

In an effort to keep the dedications up to date, Alderman Roche asked if it might be acceptable to have the families of memorialized individuals periodically re-petition the city for continuation of street corner dedications?

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

182477: Ordinance - By Ald. Heuston, That this Board amends the ordinance regarding memorials by adding a provision to rededicate and restore lost and damaged memorials.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous - 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters,
February 27, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk