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March 26, 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on March 26, 2008 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Walter Pero, Rebekah Gewirtz, Robert Trane and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen John Connolly, Sean O'Donovan and William White as well as Rich Rogers from the Greater Boston Labor Council, Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce, Jim Coyle from the Boston Building Trades Council and several interested parties.

The committee held a Public Hearing to receive input on a proposed Responsible Employer Ordinance (REO).

Among the issues discussed by those speaking in favor of the proposal were:

- The proper treatment of workers
- Protecting the rights of workers
- Paying the prevailing wage
- Public safety issues, diversity and the exploitation of immigrant workers
- Disputed higher costs of union jobs

Among the issues discussed by those speaking against the proposal were:

- The status of the economy and the negative impact this ordinance would have on businesses and taxpayers
- Making it difficult for small business owners to bid on city projects
- An increase of 12% in construction costs
- Studies indicating that some cities should rescind their Responsible Employer Ordinances

Alderman White asked that any statistics presented at this meeting be submitted to the committee for review and he questioned how the prevailing wage would be impacted by paid benefits.

Alderman Connolly requested that information on REO's in other communities be submitted to the committee by April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Other areas discussed by the members were drug testing of union employees, certification, training and licensing of union and non-union workers and OSHA safety training.

No papers were acted on.

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Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman  
Committee on Legislative Matters

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Legislative Matters,  
March 26, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk