

April 4, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on April 4, 2006 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were James Kostaras from SPCD, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Solicitor John Gannon, City Clerk John Long and Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Kostaras informed the members that the Home Rule Petition re: linkage still pending in the State Legislature. Chairman Taylor asked Mr. Kostaras to find out the reasons for the delay to determine if there is a way for the city to modify the proposal to ensure its passage. The committee requested a status report on all pending Home Rule Petitions and Ordinances, therefore, Alderman Trane's motion **that the City Solicitor provide the Board of Aldermen with a list of pending Home Rule Petitions and ordinances**, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Long addressed the committee regarding a review of the City Ordinances. He suggested a number of changes to correct inaccuracies within the Code of Ordinances and reviewed each one with the committee. The Law Department has reviewed and approved the proposed changes.

During the discussion, a question arose regarding businesses that operate beyond midnight. Mr. Gannon will have his department research what authority the Board of Aldermen has over these businesses and report back to the committee.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 6 items:

177497: Order - Re: Somerville Neighborhood Protection Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Placed on File

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

177748: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of amendments to Zoning Ordinance re: affordable housing, open space and historic preservation linkage

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Placed on File

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

178319: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to exempt the Traffic Director and Traffic Engineer from MGL c31.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Placed on File

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

179249: Communication from City Clerk - Submitting his review of the City's Code of Ordinances

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Approved as amended by City Clerk's memo dated April 4, 2006, except for 8-7; 8-7(d); 8-167.1(c); 8-203); which were not approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

179434: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a Home Rule Petition to add a sales tax on motor vehicle rentals.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be Placed on File

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

180694: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the extension of Contract #03-032 with Fleming Brothers Inc. for site improvements to Nathan Tufts Park for an additional 6 months, to Sept. 30, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

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In Board of Aldermen

Clerk