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June 5, 2007

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

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on June 5, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Walter Pero as well as Solicitor John Gannon, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, George Landers from ISD, Health Director Noreen Burke, Tammy Rocha from Somerville Cares About Prevention and interested members of the public.

Mr. Gannon addressed the members regarding 6 remedies available to the city relative to the issuance of a stop work order. Mr. Landers stated that the summary abatement process is the most effective because contractors almost always immediately comply. If a contractor continues to ignore the abatement process, the city would then report that contractor to the state. Mr. Landers also stated that he contacts the ward alderman whenever there is a stop work order issued.

Regarding the matter of jurisdiction over some state and DCR roadways. Mr. Gannon told the members that he drafted a Home Rule Petition to that effect. Chairman Taylor indicated that the measure would have to be presented to the Board of Aldermen and then sent to the Committee on Legislative Matters.

Ms. Burke spoke about the city's Somerville Cares About Prevention program and about the need for a safe method of needle disposal. There is a major problem with needle disposal, due in large part to the way the existing laws are written. The city would need to develop a protocol for handling needle disposal before a program could be put in place, but Ms. Burks said that, in the meantime, the Police Department would accept needles found by residents. The Department of Public Health has contacted city officials about implementing a pilot program for needle collection in Somerville and an evaluation will be made by the city regarding this offer.

Ms. Burke suggested that a public hearing be scheduled to get input from the community on this important matter. Chairman Taylor's motion **that the City Solicitor survey other communities and States to ascertain how they regulate the proper disposal of needles**, was approved. Chairman Taylor's motion **that the Health Director set up a Joint Public Hearing with the Committee on Legislative Matters to discuss, for public input and awareness, the proper disposal of hypodermic needles**, was approved.

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,  
June 5, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk