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August 7, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Committee on Legislative Matters convened on August 7, 2007 with Chairman Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Rebekah Gewirtz, Maryann Heuston, Walter Pero, John Connolly, William Roche and William White also present and voting. Also present were Monica Lamboy from SPCD, Brandon Wilson from Historic Preservation, members of the Historic Preservation Commission, Assistant City Solicitor Robert Collins, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Assistant Personnel Director Carlene Campbell and consultant Ed Gordon.

Ms. Wilson made a presentation to the members, summarizing the Commission's report and recommendations. She told the members that a comprehensive evaluation of the entire city has been performed utilizing funds from state grants and the Massachusetts Historical Commission. At the present time, there are 371 historical designated properties in the city. Extensive outreach was done in the city and 178 registered pieces of mail were sent to owners of potential historical properties and follow-up neighborhood meetings were held to obtain additional input. The commission reviewed surveys, submitted the data to the state and held public hearings to answer questions. Properties have been selected by historic designation and architectural structure.

Alderman Roche requested that the committee be provided with a breakdown of properties by affiliation, commercial, residential and religious and asked that each member of the Board of Aldermen be provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation shown this evening.

Chairman Taylor asked if property owners are eligible for low cost loans when renovating historic properties and was told that Historic Preservation tries to find solutions to the financial burden through loans from SPCD. Ms. Wilson told the members that the Commission may issue a certificate of hardship in cases of financial burden, allowing for some stringent requirements to be relaxed.

Alderman Connolly's motion that Ms. Wilson obtain information from the Archdiocese regarding church properties in the city was approved.

Alderman Desmond made and withdrew a motion that the Commission's report be approved, minus 5 properties, as discussed.

Chairman Taylor informed those present that the matter will remain in committee until after Labor Day and he requested that the committee be provided with a list of property owners who want their property to receive an historical designation.

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

183796: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of amendments to Ordinance Sections 2-314, 2-315, 2-316 and 2-317, re: vacation, sick and

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved as amended within

VOTE: Unanimous, 8 - 0 in favor

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor, Chairman
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee of the Whole on
Legislative Matters, August 7, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk