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January 22, 2008

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY
AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety and the Committee on Legislative Matters convened in Joint Session on January 22, 2008, with Chairmen William White and Thomas Taylor presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly, Rebekah Gewirtz, Walter Pero, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Maryann Heuston, State Representative Denise Provost, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Director of Traffic and Parking James Kotzuba, ADA Coordinator Carlene Campbell and Kelly Ann Binari from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

The committee discussed the matter of snow removal as it pertains to persons with disabilities. Ms. Binari told the members that 20% of the city's population is disabled and stated that the city lacks a clear policy for snow removal. Some questions raised concerned who is responsible for shoveling at bus stops and how wide should sidewalks be shoveled to permit access for people with disabilities. Mr. Gannon told the members that the width of the path is up to each individual landlord. The clearing of snow from curb cuts also presents a problem due to manpower. Mr. Koty believes that the MBTA should be responsible for clearing its bus stops and Chairman White asked Mr. Gannon to provide the members with a memorandum regarding the responsibility of the MBTA in clearing snow from its bus stops in the city.

Representative Provost told the members that the Speaker Sal DiMasi wants to draft a comprehensive bill to deal with the removal of snow and ice and she offered to make herself available to assist the city in developing a plan for new policies. Representative Provost also said that she would contact the MBTA and DCR and inform them that they are not clearing snow from their properties within the city. David White told the members that Davis Square was impassable during a recent storm and he questioned how the city could fine property owners for not shoveling when the MBTA isn't being fined for not clearing snow from the bus stops. Alderman Heuston said that the Inspectional Services Department should prioritize their efforts to target the retailers and commercial properties who are the real abusers.

Chairman White suggested that the ramps in the squares be shoveled out and that any disabled person call the city's 311 number to have the DPW clear the ramp to the bus stop in their neighborhood. Chairman White also stated that the Public Health and Public Safety Committee would deal with issues and complaints from people with disabilities and work with the DPW and state agencies to develop a comprehensive plan to prioritize snow removal.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman William A. White, Jr., Chairman
Chairman
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

Alderman Thomas F. Taylor,
Committee on Legislative Matters

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Joint Committees on Public Health
and Public Safety and Legislative Matters, January
22, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk