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September 29, 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**MEETING AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened as a Committee of the Whole on September 29, 2008, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly, Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Bruce Desmond and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Police Chief Anthony Holloway, Acting Deputy Chief Michael Cabral and Jessie Baker from the Mayor's office.

Chief Holloway addressed the members regarding the reorganization of the Police Department and elaborated on the plans for community policing. As previously discussed, the city has been divided into 2 districts, (East and West) and 7 sectors. Sectors 1, 2, 3 and 4 are in the East District and sectors 5, 6 and 7 are in the West. Each District has 21 officers assigned to it, not including the 9 NPO's. Officers bid their districts and must remain in those districts for 1 year. There are 2 shifts and officers must remain on their assigned shift for 1 year, as well.

The department is moving forward with its Comstat initiative and meetings are held every Tuesday to review activity and pinpoint trouble spots. Watch commanders are empowered to deploy manpower where needed on a daily basis. Because of the manner in which manpower is distributed, additional officers can be moved to a particular section without affecting the safety of the rest of the city. Since the plan was implemented 3 weeks ago, no overtime has been expended in the department.

The Neighborhood Police Officers, (NPO), formerly referred to as Community Police Officers, will be responsible for quality of life issues in the neighborhoods. Their presence on the streets of the community will foster relationships between the city's residents and its police force, leading to more arrests, initially, followed by a decrease in crime over time. NPO's will be leaving cards on residents' doors when there is a problem in their neighborhood, asking for assistance to reduce crime. NPO's will also be tagging some vehicles with a warning notice advising the owner that his/her vehicle has been identified as being a potential theft target.

The Somerville Police Department is the 1<sup>st</sup> agency in Middlesex County to have a Diversion Program. Essentially, if a juvenile commits an offense, e.g., trespassing or possession of alcohol, in a particular sector of the city, that juvenile, along with his/her parents are brought to the police station, where the case is

reviewed. Both the juvenile and parents would sign a document agreeing that the juvenile will perform community service in the same sector where the crime was committed. If the individual fails to complete the assigned community service, the case would then be referred to the court system. This program is an effort to save the juveniles who can be saved.

The Somerville Probation Department is now providing the Police Department with regular reports of individuals on probation who reside in the city. This information allows the police to better monitor these individuals and the neighborhoods where they live. Additionally, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials will notify the chief when their agents are in the city and when any arrests are made in the city. Chief Holloway stated that he would then conduct a meeting with the community to inform them what took place. Chief Holloway gave his assurance that he would work to deport any illegal immigrant involved in a serious crime.

Chairman White requested that the chief provide a hardcopy of the manpower breakdown/distribution for the members.

No papers were acted on.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Public Health and  
Public Safety, meeting as a Committee of the  
Whole, September 29, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk