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July 8, 2009

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened on July 8, 2009, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Sean O'Donovan, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, Deputy Police Chief Paul Upton, Assistant City Solicitor David Shapiro, Superintendent of Inspectional Services George Landers and resident Joe Lynch.

**187249 - re: the legality of 10 residents occupying 31 Wilton St.:**

Mr. Shapiro addressed the members, reported his findings relative to the Fair Housing Act and stated that he has been in contact with HUD and the Department of Justice. The city has the right to request 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification to be sure that the residents of the facility are entitled to protection under the Fair Housing Act. Deputy Chief Upton told the members that he spoke with the Department of Corrections and that the Sheriff's Office told him that it is very difficult to keep track of residents in an unsecured facility. Deputy Chief Upton also stated that there have been no recent reports of problems at the property. Alderman O'Donovan expressed concern that this issue might become larger than just the Wilton Street property and he suggested keeping track of the residents in this type of facility. Chairman White stated that the concern of the committee is the avoidance of the zoning by-laws and suggested that each resident of the facility submit an application to the property owner, which would be kept on file, in case the Inspectional Services Department felt it necessary to perform a review. Mr. Landers proposed that the property owner attest to the fact that his tenants meet the protected class guidelines. Mr. Landers also noted that there are approximately 26 group homes in the city and Chairman White asked Mr. Landers to determine how many of those are sober houses.

The committee received information that the house manager's girl friend is living at the facility and Chairman White said that there is a problem with record keeping among the Police, Health and Public Works Departments. He requested that the Solicitor's Office and the Inspectional Services Department work together to develop a form similar to the one used by the city of St. Paul, MN, and to submit said form to the committee upon its completion.

**187670 - KSS property openings:**

Mr. Landers told the members that the property has been secured and all access points have been closed.

**187548 - directed patrols in and around the Maxpak site:**

Deputy Chief Upton stated that the patrols are being done. Alderman O'Donovan noted that children have been on the roof of the building and he expressed concern for their safety.

**187683 - health inspectors entering private property:**

Mr. Landers stated that city inspectors cannot enter private property without the permission of the property owner or an administrative order.

**187788 - inspection of property for dogs and dog breeding:**

Mr. Landers informed the members that dogs less than six months of age are not required to be licensed. Chairman White suggested looking into licensing for dog breeders and requested that the Solicitor's Office and the Inspectional Services Department work together to change the zoning code, as applicable to this issue.

No papers were acted on.

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