

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

September 18, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened on September 18, 2008, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly and Walter Pero also present and voting. Also present were Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, Police Chief Anthony Holloway, City Solicitor John Gannon, Michael Buckley from the Mayor's Office and resident Joe Lynch.

Chief Holloway presented and reviewed crime statistics for the city for the period from June 1st through August 31st of this year and told the members that crime is up 1% over the same period last year. The Chief said that a detective is assigned to the DEA task force, therefore, more arrests are being made for drug conspiracy charges. Chairman White requested that Chief Holloway submit a written explanation of the crime statistics presented at this meeting and also provide a breakdown of crime according to neighborhood. Mr. Lynch stated that a police cruiser responded to a domestic incident at 31 Wilton Street, but Chief Holloway replied that there have been no calls to that address since February and he told the members that he has prepared a presentation for the September 29th Public Health and Public Safety Committee meeting.

Chief Kelleher spoke about the property located at 31 Wilton Street and informed the members that lodging houses are required to have sprinkler systems, but since the property is a 2 family house and is being used as such, with 5 residents in each unit, a sprinkler system is not mandated. If a sprinkler system were installed in the property, then more than 6 people could live in each unit. Chief Kelleher noted that an agreement was reached that allows the Fire Department to enter the premises at any time to check for violations. Mr. Lynch requested that an unannounced visit be made to the property to determine if there are locks on the bedroom doors and to determine if the kitchens are abandoned. Chief Kelleher stated that there is no prohibition to putting locks on bedroom doors. The Chief also noted that the Fire Department has responded to this property twice during 2008 and that neither call was drug related. Mr. Gannon told the members that any alleged violations can allow the city to seek an administrative search warrant and he further stated that the city is still working on the issue of 5 people living in each unit as opposed to the allowed 4 people per unit.

Mr. Gannon also spoke briefly about the ongoing study regarding bicycles and motorized bikes on sidewalks. Chairman White requested that Mr. Gannon submit a response on this issue in writing.

Chairman White told the members that he would convene a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 27th at 7:00 PM to conduct a public hearing on the Safe Start initiative.

No papers were acted on.

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, September 18, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk