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August 23, 2007

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

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened on August 23, 2007, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Member Alderman Walter Pero also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Maryann Heuston, Steve MacEchern from the DPW, Police Captain Mike Devereaux, Police Captain Charles Femino, Frank Pace from the Police Department, James Kotzuba and Terry Smith from Traffic and Parking and interested members of the public.

Captain Devereaux addressed the members regarding the city's crime statistics, dating back to 2003, and presented data for the period from January 1, 2007 through August 19, 2007, as follows:

Violent Crime	2005	2006	2007	% Change 07 vs. 06	% Change 07 vs. 05
Homicide	0	1	2	100%	200%
Sexual Assault	20	28	33	18%	65%
Robbery	78	86	75	-13%	-4%
Aggravated Assault	62	99	85	-14%	37%
Total Violent Crime	160	214	195	-9%	22%

Property Crime					
Burglary	360	289	248	-14%	-31%
Residential	314	222	214	-4%	-32%
Commercial	46	67	34	-49%	-26%
Larceny	520	723	912	26%	75%
Non Motor Vehicle	358	465	423	-9%	18%
Motor Vehicle	162	258	489	90%	202%
Vehicle Theft	237	210	198	-6%	-16%
Total Property Crime	1,117	1,222	1,358	11%	22%

All Part 1 Crime	1,277	1,436	1,553	8%	22%
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The Police Department is concerned with crimes involving breaking and entering and have become proactive in their approach to dealing with this issue, informing the public to lock doors and windows. Suspects have been apprehended for a series of housebreaks in West Somerville. Plans have been developed to deal with motor vehicle break-ins, as well, where the primary problem is the theft of GPS, cell phones, I-Pods and laptops. As new patterns of crime are detected, the detective bureau develops strategies to combat them.

Both Captain Devereaux and Captain Femino told the members that the department needs more personnel. Captain Femino also stated that, within two years, the entire department would be a Community Police Department.

In other business before the committee, the issue of raised sidewalks/speed bumps on Washington Street were discussed. Alderman Heuston's motion **that the Director of Traffic and Parking install a raised calming table(s) to slow the traffic at Perry Park** was approved.

Alderman Pero suggested that the City look into a more comprehensive plan to place speed bumps throughout the city. Mr. Smith & Mr. MacEchern told the members that the Traffic and Parking Department and the DPW support raised calming tables and oppose speed bumps.

Chairman White's motion **that Steve Winslow and Monica Lamboy appear at the next committee meeting to discuss the cost of traffic calming tables** was approved.

A motion by Aldermen Pero and Heuston **that the Administration examine the feasibility of placing traffic calming tables in each ward and that Steve Winslow, of SPCD, provide an analysis and overview of what traffic calming tables would cost and how much money is available to the city to install said tables in the city and also to provide an analysis to the Public Works and Traffic and Parking Departments** was approved.

Alderman William White, Chairman
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Health and
Public Safety, August 23, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk