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December 12, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works convened on December 12, 2006, with Chairman Walter Pero presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Rebekah Gewirtz also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Thomas Taylor and Maryann Heuston, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Ken Bates from RCN, Paul Diamontopoulos from Verizon, Tim Broderick from Comcast and Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Pero noted, for the record, that NSTAR failed to appear at this meeting and did not notify the committee that they would not attend.

Commissioner Koty told the members that at the present time, there are 108 poles that need to be replaced, 97 of them being double poles. Part of the problem lies with other utility companies still having wires and/or equipment on 61 of the poles, preventing NSTAR from completing the change outs. The commissioner stated that NSTAR has been cooperating with the city but that they are being delayed by the inaction of some of the other utility companies.

Verizon was asked why they are not removing the pole tops when they are the last utility to remove wires from a pole and Mr. Diamontopoulos said that he would address that issues within his company to see that the situation is corrected. He also told the members that contact information has been given to the DPW so that calls may be placed directly to the persons responsible for performing this work.

Mr. Bates informed the members that RCN doesn't own the cable it uses to transmit its signal and said that there are various divisions within RCN that don't necessarily communicate with each other, making coordination difficult.

Mr. Broderick told the members that a Comcast employee physically checks each pole work request submitted and turns the work order over to its contractor.

Alderman Gewirtz's motion, submitted on behalf of Alderman Taylor, *that a list of the double poles in each ward be provided to the Board of Aldermen*, was approved by a vote of 3 in favor to 0 against.

Alderman Desmond's motion, on behalf of Alderman Heuston, *that instructions be posted on the city's website to inform residents how to report double pole problems, street light problems, etc., and that the instructions including contact information for residents to call regarding a particular problem*, was approved by a vote of 3 in favor to 0 against..

Alderman Gewirtz suggested that each utility company assign a liason to deal with the city's issues.

Chairman Pero suggested that utility representatives appearing at public hearings before the Board of Aldermen might want to be prepared to respond to questions about double poles during the public hearings.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Walter Pero, Chairman
Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and
Public Works, December 12, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk