

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.

March 24, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SENIOR SERVICES

The Committee on Senior Services met on March 24, 2008, at Weston Manor, with Chairman William White, presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Robert Trane and Bruce Desmond and Cindy Hickey from the Council on Aging.

Ms. Hickey told those present about upcoming events, including trips to Italy and Provincetown and also said that the Council on Aging would be helping eligible seniors with the Internal Revenue Service's stimulus package. Ms. Hickey also stated that a city-wide survey is being conducted to determine when and where a shuttle service might be available.

Alderman Trane spoke about the crosswalk in front of Weston Manor and told those present that the contractor would forfeit his performance bond if the crosswalk is made incorrectly again. Alderman Trane also stated that the Police Department is performing enforcement to cite motor vehicle operators who are not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks and he noted that comprehensive signage, in neon green, would be placed throughout the city in the near future.

Alderman Sullivan's motion **that the Chief of Police direct that traffic enforcement at the crosswalk at Weston Manor, be performed using unmarked police cars, from 7:00 – 9:00 AM and from 4:30 – 6:30 PM,** was approved.

Residents expressed concern about drivers operating motor vehicles while talking on cell phones and also about cars being ticketed and towed by a neighboring condo association. Alderman Trane told the residents that the Director of the Somerville Housing Authority, Joe Macaluso, has contacted the condo association and informed them that they have no authority to issue tickets or to tow. Residents also asked if more time could be allowed to cross streets, rather than the present 20 seconds and Alderman Trane said that the Mayor informed him that the time would be increased. Alderman Trane also told those present that the city is looking into the possibility of using raised crosswalks and speed bumps as a means to slow traffic. Chairman White stated that the committee would advocate for a police sub-station being situated in West Somerville.

Chairman White requested that the Director of Traffic and Parking appear before the committee to address the issue of the length of time allowed to pedestrians when crossing in a crosswalk and to inform the committee what can be done to increase that amount of time.

Residents also raised questions about painting the nearby pedestrian light pole yellow to alert drivers and to use light strips on the cross walks similar to the one at Clarendon Towers. The committee told the residents

that the safe start program dealing with these issues would shortly be discussed before the Board of Aldermen and that these suggestions would be presented at that discussion.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman William A. White, Jr., Chairman
Committee on Senior Services

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Senior Services,
March 24, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk