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March 9, 2010

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SENIOR SERVICES

The Committee on Senior Services met on March 9, 2010 at Bryant Manor, with Chairman Dennis Sullivan presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William White and William Roche also present and voting. Also present were Alderman John Connolly, Cindy Hickey and Joan Guarino from the Council on Aging, Eleanor Resnor from Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP), Representative Tim Toomey, Tufts' consultant Kevin Stone and interested members of the public.

Ms. Hickey addressed the seniors present and urged them to become more active with the Council on Aging and to participate in the many events being offered to them. The 30th Annual Mayor's Senior Picnic will be held on August 11th and former Mayor Eugene Brune will be the honored guest. Ms. Guarino told those present about some of the activities being planned, including trips to the Tropicana in Las Vegas and to a dude ranch. The Council on Aging will be holding fundraisers to help defray the cost of these trips and Ms. Guarino asked for suggestions as to the type of fundraisers to have.

Representative Toomey spoke about the state's financial picture and said that revenues are down, creating a dire economic picture. House Speaker Robert DeLeo is exploring the possibility of bringing casinos to Massachusetts, according to Representative Toomey. By a show of hands, 44% of those present were in favor of casinos in Massachusetts.

Residents spoke about issues of concern to them, including:

- Having the yellow line in front of the building repainted
- Poor lighting around the building and on Pearl Street
- Repairing pothole
- Disrepair of the brick sidewalks throughout the city
- Installing a crosswalk in front of the main entrance to Bryant Manor

Alderman Roche gave an update on Washington Street and said that the state will be doing the entire street using stimulus funds. The work will include the installation of new sidewalks, additional trees and new benches along the roadway. Alderman White updated those present on the status of Assembly Square saying that plans are moving forward and noting that IKEA plans to have its store open in the fall on 2011. Ms. Resnor stated that the city, in conjunction with STEP, has secured a \$15 million donation from the developer of Assembly Square to help bring an Orange Line stop to the mall. It is anticipated that this stop will be completed by 2013.

Alderman White's motion *that the Director of Traffic and Parking repaint the yellow line in from on 75 Myrtle Street*, was approved.

Alderman Roche's motion *that the Commissioner of Public Works take the appropriate measures to increase the lighting around Bryant Manor*, was approved.

Alderman White's motion *that the Commissioner of Public Works take the appropriate measures to increase the lighting on Pearl Street, between Myrtle and Franklin Streets*, was approved.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Dennis M. Sullivan, Chairman
Committee on Senior Services