

April 29, 2009

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

The Committee on Veterans and Public Services convened on April 29, 2009, with Chairman Dennis Sullivan presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William Roche and Maryann Heuston also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen John Connolly and Robert Trane, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker and Veteran's Services Director Frank Senesi.

Mr. Senesi updated the members of the 2009 Memorial Day parade and said that the cost of last year's parade was \$44,200. This year's parade is expected to be the biggest, to date, and Mr. Senesi was able to get all participating bands, and the Shriner's, to reduce their cost by 10%. The Veterans' Services Department has raised \$42,010 to defray the cost of this year's parade and Mr. Senesi said that any remaining balance would be paid through a revolving fund and/or an appropriation.

Mr. Senesi told the members that in FY-08, the city expended \$91,000 in benefits to veterans and that for FY-09, that figure could rise to \$172,000. Mr. Senesi explained that the department assists unemployed veterans financially up to \$13,000 per year. Because of the substantial jump in benefits provided, and even with a 75% state reimbursement, Mr. Senesi informed the members that it may be necessary for him to seek a supplemental budget to cover the costs of the department.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Dennis M. Sullivan, Chairman
Committee on Veterans and Public Services