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April 17, 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON YOUTH SERVICES**

The Committee on Youth Services held a meeting on April 17 2008, with Chairman John Connolly presiding and Committee Member Aldermen Dennis Sullivan, (appointed for this meeting to provide a quorum), also present and voting. Also present were Jackie Rossetti from the Communications Department, Nancy Bacci from the Youth Department, representatives from the Youth Council and the Teen Empowerment Program and interested members of the public.

Members of the Somerville Youth Council (SYC) addressed the members and said that the mission of the council is to make important and positive changes in the city and to empower the city's youth to incorporate their voices in city government. Wendy Weiser spoke about the differences between the SYC and the Teen Empowerment Program (TEP) and said that monthly meetings are held with the Mayor to discuss issues of relevance to teens. Ms. Weiser also stated that the organizations would like to meet on a regular basis with the Board of Aldermen. Among the items of concern to the Youth Council are, immigrant youth issues, youth employment and a youth voice in city government. Several of the youth representatives relayed stories of their experiences with individuals who have inspired them. Danny McLaughlin told the members that teens are often stereotyped and he invited the members to participate in a word association exercise that is used to eliminate stereotyping. There was also a discussion of the recent Peace Conference held in the city that included a service fair comprised of some 30 organizations informing the city of their services.

Ms. Bacci said that the city is accepting employment applications from youth between the ages of 16 to 20, noting that there are currently 117 applicants.

Chairman Connolly's motion **that the public be made aware that employment applications for the city's youth, between the ages of 16 and 20, are available and that leadership positions are available at the YMCA for youth between the ages of 13 and 15,** was approved.

Chairman Connolly applauded the youth representatives on their presentations and urged them to stay involved and to keep the committee informed of their needs. The record will remain open to receive and include additional comments in this report.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 4 items:

**172765:** Communication from Mayor - Amending requested appropriation for the purchase of the Homans Building

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

**178211:** Order - By Ald. Sullivan, Heuston and Trane, That the Youth Services Committee review the Youth Coordinator position to include job qualifications and job duties.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

**178647:** Order - By Ald. Roche, That the Office of Youth Services reach out to non-profit youth organizations and attempt to coordinate schedules so youth can participate in as many activities as possible.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

**179897:** Order - By Ald. Provost and White, That this Board's Committee on Youth Services hold a well-advertised public hearing on the Saturday Youth Basketball program, before any changes are made to the program by the Recreation Dept.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

**179898:** Resolution - By Ald. Provost that a representative of the Administration attend the above-referenced public hearing, in order to explain any anticipated changes to the Saturday Youth Basketball program, and to listen to public comment on the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be placed on file

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

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Alderman John Connolly, Chairman  
Committee on Youth Services

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Youth Services,  
April 17, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk