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April 19, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened on April 19, 2007, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Member Alderman Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Thomas Taylor and several members of the public.

The committee met to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed B.U. bio-safety lab.

There were no speakers in favor of the proposal.

Several individuals spoke against the proposal, including Mr. Elliot Mishler, a professor at Harvard University and Mr. Lynn Klotz, a former professor at Harvard University. The objections of those speaking are summarized below:

- The research involves deadly pathogens and diseases such as ebola, anthrax and hemorrhagic fever having no known cures
- The lab would be located in an area that would pose a risk to residents and workers at the lab
- There are no regulations at the federal, state or local levels to prevent an opening of a Bio Safety Level IV lab
- Boston University has failed to provide an environmental impact study to communities
- Boston University and the NIH have failed to provide an adequate analysis of the lab's effects on nearby communities
- There are 2 court cases pending, (1 at the state level and the other at the federal level), brought by residents in the areas closest to the proposed site of the lab
- There is no financial gain for the communities
- Bacterial diseases only require a Bio Safety Level II lab
- Placing a bio lab in an urban area is ludicrous

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

182725: Resolution - By Ald. Taylor, White and Trane, That this Board supports the efforts of Somerville/Medford United for Justice with Peace to halt the construction of Boston University's Bio Safety Level 4 laboratory until the required environmental impact reviews are completed.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 2 - 0 in favor

Alderman William White, Chairman
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Health and
Public Safety, April 19, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk