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November 17, 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON SENIOR SERVICES**

The Committee on Senior Services met at Brady Towers on November 17, 2008, with Chairman William White, presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Thomas Taylor, Traffic and Parking Director James Kotzuba, Traffic Engineer Terry Smith, Council on Aging Director Cindy Hickey and several residents of Brady Towers

Ms. Hickey spoke before the committee and informed those present about flu shots for senior citizens, the Thanksgiving dance on November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas party on December 15<sup>th</sup> and the Council on Aging's Illumination Tour on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hickey also stated that she would work with the Somerville Housing Authority regarding visitor passes and VNA passes.

Chairman White spoke about the Safe-START program and noted that it came about as a result of a request for increased safety around senior buildings made by the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Connolly told those present that the Board of Aldermen would advocate for the city's senior citizens relative to traffic issues or any other problems that might arise. Alderman Sullivan spoke about the egress from the parking lot at Brady Towers and said that the Traffic and Parking Department has increased its enforcement efforts to curb the problems.

Residents of Brady Towers told the members that the traffic problems have not gotten any better and that illegal parking remains a serious problem. Residents also complained about non-residents parking in the lot and the difficulties experienced when crossing the street.

Chairman White asked Mr. Kotzuba if the Traffic and Parking Department could work with the Somerville Housing Authority to address enforcement and ticketing procedures and Mr. Kotzuba stated that he would ask the City Solicitor to look at that issue. Mr. Kotzuba stated that there is a PCO in the area of the parking lot every 30 minutes to issue tickets, as necessary. Mr. Smith told the members that the Standards of Traffic Engineering don't allow traffic signals to be placed in front of the parking lot to allow residents to exit the lot without problems. Mr. Kotzuba also informed the residents that making a left turn when exiting the parking lot at Brady Towers is a ticketable offense. With regard to the crossing signals, Mr. Kotzuba told those present that the signals would have chirping countdowns added to them within the next few weeks.

Chairman White told those present that bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks in business districts and that the Board of Aldermen has asked the City Solicitor to draft an ordinance extending that ban throughout the whole city.

Chairman White's motion *that the City Solicitor draft a revision to the bicycle ordinance to prohibit operating bicycles on sidewalks at the city's senior building properties*, was approved.

Alderman Connolly's motion *that the Somerville Housing Authority begin to explore all options for entry to or exit from the Brady Towers parking lot*, was approved.

Alderman Taylor's motion *that the City Solicitor provide an opinion regarding enforcement by the Traffic and Parking and/or Police Departments for parking violations on Somerville Housing Authority property*, was approved.

Chairman White's motion *that the Traffic and Parking department install and ELDERLY CROSSING sign in front of Brady Towers*, was approved.

No papers were acted on.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Senior Services,  
November 17, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk