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May 27, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SENIOR SERVICES

The Committee on Senior Services met at Bryant Manor on May 27, 2008, with Chairman William White, presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Alderman William Roche, Police Officers Neil Collins and Nick Stiles and several residents of Bryant Manor.

Chairman White informed those present that the purpose of the committee is to deal with matters that affect the city's senior citizens and that the committee has been holding its meetings at various senior housing complexes throughout the city in an effort to bring city government to the senior population. Chairman White spoke about the Home Rule Petition to establish Senior Safety Zones to deal with traffic vs. pedestrian issues. Alderman Sullivan spoke about the Board of Aldermen's insistence on having the city's senior buildings included in SPCD's safety zones plan. Alderman Connolly informed those present that the SHA and the City would provide materials to any residents of the senior buildings who would be willing to beautify the area around the building by planting flowers, etc. The committee is attempting to get the Sunsetters to perform at Bryant Manor and Alderman Roche suggested that the residents contact the Mayor's Office to request that the Bryant manor be included on their tour. Officer Stiles told those present that, on occasion, street sweepers have to travel in both directions on one-way streets. He also advised the residents of a scam being perpetrated where individuals, posing as fire fighters, are attempting to solicit money and he urged the residents to contact the police if someone comes to their door attempting this.

Residents expressed concerns about traffic in the immediate area and suggested that a 4-way STOP sign be installed at Myrtle and Pearl Streets and asked why Myrtle Street isn't a one-way street. (Alderman Roche said that a previous attempt to make the street one-way failed after a disagreement over the direction of the traffic.) Questions were also raised regarding the shoveling of bus stops in the winter and those present were informed that the DPW would be clearing the bus stops in the future. Some residents told the members that some bricks in the sidewalks on Chester and Elm Streets in Davis Square are coming loose, creating a pedestrian hazard. The roadway in front of Walgreen's was described as being uneven, causing damage to vehicles.

Alderman Sullivan's motion **that the Director of Traffic and Parking examine the intersection of Myrtle and Pearl Streets for the feasibility of installing traffic signals or a 4-way STOP sign**, was approved.

Alderman Sullivan's motion **that the Chief of Police develop a policy for crossing guards to ensure that children are crossing streets safely**, was approved.

Alderman Sullivan's motion that a resolution be sent to the principal of the charter school at St. Benedict's, requesting that an orderly and safe exit policy be implemented for students crossing the street, was approved.

Alderman Sullivan's motion that the Commissioner of Public Works repair the brickwork at the bus stop on Broadway, at Indiana Avenue, was approved.

Chairman White's motion that the Chief of Police order directed patrols at Myrtle and Pearl Streets, at various hours, for traffic enforcement, was approved.

Chairman White's motion that a communication be sent to the Director of Traffic and Parking to place a crosswalk and speed limit sign on Myrtle Street, abutting Bryant Manor, was approved.

Chairman White's motion that the Director of Traffic and Parking increase the time interval of the traffic signal at Broadway and Franklin Street, was approved.

Alderman White's motion, on behalf of Alderman Roche, that the Director of Traffic and Parking consider installing plastic speed bumps on Myrtle Street, in front of Bryant Manor, was approved.

Alderman Connolly's motion that the Chief of Police enforce the restrictions against parking in a bus stop and ticket drivers found to be in violation, was approved.

Alderman Connolly's motion that the Animal Control Officer investigate reports of animals being left outside at 80 Myrtle Street, at all times of the day, and take the appropriate action and report back to the Committee on Senior Services, was approved.

No papers were acted on.

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

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Senior Services,
May 27, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk