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December 5, 2006

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

The Committee on Veterans and Public Services convened on December 5, 2006, with Chairman Walter Pero presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William Roche and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Sean O'Donovan and Veteran's Services Director Frank Senesi.

Mr. Senesi reported that the fundraiser for last year's Memorial Day parade netted \$14,000 and that the Fundraising Committee is hoping to raise \$20,000 for next year's event and is hoping to secure General Sheehan as the Grand Marshall. Mr. Senesi also reported that the Dedication Committee met twice and made its selections for memorials and/or dedications. There has been an influx of veterans moving into Somerville, and as a result, 57 veterans were assisted by the Veterans Services Department.

Alderman Roche's motion **that a map of each of the city's squares be provided to all members of the Board of Aldermen, along with a list of the dedication signs already in place and their locations,** was approved.

Alderman Roche asked why the dedication sign for Alfred Cocco was removed by the city and was informed by Mr. Senesi that it did not meet the current criteria. Alderman Roche stated that he disagrees that the existing dedications be reviewed to determine if they meet the new criteria and asked that the record reflect his opposition. Mr. Senesi said that the family has refused to pay for the signs and that they were not informed that the signs were put up illegally.

Alderman O'Donovan expressed his opinion that the sign should be put back up if the family pays for it.

Chairman Pero stated that the criteria in place should be adhered to and suggested that the Dedication Committee put the status of sign back before the commission. Alderman Roche stated that the issue should not go before the commission for re-approval and said that since the sign has been stolen twice before, the family would have to pay the costs for putting up new signs by February 1, 2007 or lose the spot for the original dedication.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Walter Pero, Chairman
Committee on Veterans and Public Services

COMMITTEE REPORT

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In Board of Aldermen

Clerk