

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

7:45 PM
Room 222

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#57-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to present the following levy limit override ballot question to the voters in accordance with the procedure prescribed by G.L. c. 59 §21C(g):

Shall the City of Newton be allowed to assess an additional \$23,900,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding operating expenses for the Public Schools and the Municipal Government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. . [01-29-08 @ 6:12]

#40-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen call a special election to present the levy limit override ballot question to the voters. [01-29-08 @ 6:12]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#58-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$88,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding the costs of a special election to present the levy limit override ballot question to the voters. [01-29-08 @ 6:12]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#23-08(2) ALD. COLETTI requesting that a non-binding ballot question regarding the city's expenditure of over \$185 million in bond appropriations to construct a new Newton North High School be placed on the proposed override ballot for voter reaction in Spring of 2008. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND
FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #54-08 ALD. MANSFIELD, JOHNSON, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, PARKER, SWISTON AND FREEDMAN, offering a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor that the concrete foundations for the new Newton North High School not be installed until (1) the Mayor has submitted to the Board of Aldermen and the Board has approved a financing plan for a confirmed Guaranteed Maximum Price; and (2) the Mayor has requested and received from the Massachusetts State Treasurer a review of the project's plans, including the financing plan, and said review has been submitted to the Board of Aldermen. [01-29-08 @ 7:01 PM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #36-07 ALD. JOHNSON, LINSKY, VANCE, SANGIOLO, HESS-MAHAN, ALBRIGHT, FISCHMAN, MANSFIELD, LIPOF, LAPPIN, BURG, PARKER, & DANBERG proposing the use of general overrides and/or debt exclusions of Proposition 2 ½ limits in addition to other revenue enhancing or cost saving measures as proposed by the *Blue Ribbon Commission* to close the gap between revenue and expenses and enhance the City's ability to invest in annual capital maintenance requirements. [02-13-07 @ 8:57 AM]

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #55-08 ALD. SANGIOLO, HARNEY AND PARKER proposing that the Board of Aldermen request the assistance of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and State Treasurer Tim Cahill in managing the Newton North High School construction project, including assistance with controlling project costs. [01-22-08 @ 11:05 PM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES, PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

- #41-08 ALD. LENNON, JOHNSON, BRANDEL seeking the establishment of a formal working group consisting of representatives from the Board of Aldermen, the DPW, Parks & Recreation, Police Department, (and any other entity it deems relevant) that will meet within a reasonable timeframe after each snow event to discuss snow clearing activities; to identify problematic areas city-wide and how they were addressed and will be addressed in the future; and, to address broader snow-related policy issues, to provide information to the Board of Aldermen relative to potential ordinances re snow clearing, e.g., mandatory sidewalk shoveling. [1-29-08 @7:04 PM]

REFERRED TO LAND USE & PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES

- #37-08 ALD. BAKER, MANSFIELD & FISCHMAN proposing a revision to the Rules & Orders of the Board to allow Land Use Committee public hearings to be held on more than one night per month.
- #422-06 ALD. HESS-MAHAN requesting creation of an ordinance prohibiting the use of portable gasoline-powered leaf blowers within the City limits.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #29-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the law Department legal assistance account for legal services for collective bargaining, labor disputes and arbitrations. [01-15-08 @ 5:20 PM]
- #7-08 ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting to create a task force whose members will be jointly appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to investigate the creation of a Commission on Public Art. The job of the Commission would be to raise funds, solicit commissions, and select public art for villages and/or parks. [12-18-07 @ 12:48 PM]

#329-05 ALD. JOHNSON & ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting that the **Noise Ordinance** be revised and updated to better reflect the noise problem being faced by the City.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#397-07 ALD. JOHNSON AND COLETTI requesting to increase the fee for dogs being off-leash except where dogs are legally able to be off-leash.
[12-04-07 @ 12:22 AM]
HELD 6-0 1/23/08

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#358-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY09-FY13 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$194,907,647 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (CITY AND GRANT/FEE FUNDED)	\$ 67,632,500
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 6,230,535
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 16,772,295
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 94,259,767
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 7,366,000
OTHER	\$ 2,646,546
 TOTAL	 \$194,907,647

#287-07(2) ALD. PARKER requesting a discussion with Parks and Recreation Department in regards to an appropriate marker or plaque to honor and recognize Olympic figure skater and Newton resident Tenley Albright and her skating exhibition at the Crystal Lake upon her return from the 1956 Olympic Games where she won a gold medal. [09-20-07 @ 1:22 PM]

REFERRED TO LAND USE & PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEES

#274-07 ALD. SANGIOLO proposing that Article X of the Rules & Orders of the Board relative to Special Permit and Site Plan Approval Petitions be amended to require the applicant to post on the subject property a notice that would include but not be limited to identifying the subject matter and the date and time of the public hearing.

#262-07 ALD. VANCE AND HESS-MAHAN seeking approval by the Board of Aldermen of a home rule petition to the General Court that would authorize an amendment to the charter of the City of Newton that would change the length of terms of the members of the Board of Aldermen to three years and would provide for electing one-third of the aldermen, one from each ward, every year. [08-22-07 @ 3:53 PM]

#130-07 ALD. LENNON proposing amendments to Section 20-56, **Musical performers; regulations; license.**

#114-07 ALD. LINSKY requesting to evaluate whether the present location of the Johnny Kelley statue represents the best possible location for achieving the established purpose when it was erected. [04-10-07 @ 7:39 PM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#86-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,300,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of a new synthetic turf recreation complex at Newton South High School. [03-13-07 @ 7:04 PM]
FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 10-22-07

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, PUBLIC FACILITIES,
AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#276-06(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,800,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of a new synthetic turf recreation complex at Newton South High School.
FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 10-22-07

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#83-07 ALD. YATES requesting that the City of Newton take all possible steps to persuade the General Court to adopt the proportion of Governors Municipal Partnership that would allow the City to reduce employee health insurance costs by joining the Group Insurance Commission. [02-27-07 @ 10:21 PM]

#82-07 ALD. YATES requesting that the City of Newton take all possible steps to persuade the General Court to allow the cities and towns to tax all telecommunications facilities in the City (which would yield at least \$1.6 million per year for Newton). [02-27-07 @ 10:21 PM]

#52-07 ALD. PARKER, SANGIOLO, MANSFIELD, HARNEY, DANBERG, VANCE, LINSKY, HESS-MAHAN, BURG, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON requesting an ordinance amendment to create a health care advisory committee whose function would be to recommend measures to control the rate of increase of health insurance costs, as recommended by the Newton Finance & Management Working Group in 2005 and the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Municipal Budget in 2007. [02-09-07 @ 12:36 PM]

#370-06 ALD. SANGIOLO, PARKER, MANSFIELD requesting home rule legislation to allow advisory questions to be asked in a Newton special election.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#267-06(3) ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing Home Rule Legislation authorizing the City of Newton to apply the ordinance proposed in item #267-06(2) to assets held by the City's retirement system.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEES

#245-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting an amendment to the City Charter to require the Mayor annually to prepare and submit to the Board of Aldermen a long-term financial forecast of anticipated revenue, expenditures and the general financial condition of the City, including, but not limited to identification of any factors which will affect the financial condition of the City; projected revenue and expenditure trends; potential sources of new or expanded revenues; anticipated municipal needs likely to require major expenditures; and a strategic plan for meeting anticipated municipal needs, to include, but not be limited to, any long or short-term actions that may be taken to enhance the financial condition of the City.

#109-06 ALD. PARKER proposing charter amendments to improve the operation and accountability of City government.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#246-03(3) ALD. JOHNSON AND BAKER requesting update on the work of the Taxation Aid Committee established by the Board of Aldermen in March 2004 in administering aid to the elderly taxation fund.

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, PUBLIC FACILITIES
AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

#346-99 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting creation of an ordinance that would prohibit dogs (leashed or unleashed) from all elementary school playgrounds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chairman