

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chairman), Swiston, Harney, Yates, Shapiro, and Fuller

Absent: Ald. Johnson and Freedman

Also Present: Ald. Albright

City Staff: Chief Matthew Cummings, Newton Police Department

**REFERRED TO PS&T, PUB. FACIL. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#310-10 ALD. DANBERG, ALBRIGHT, BAKER, BLAZAR, CROSSLEY, FISCHMAN, FREEDMAN, HESS-MAHAN, JOHNSON, LINSKY, MERRILL, RICE AND SCHNIPPER requesting that §26-8 and §20-21 of the City of Newton Rev. Ords., 2007, be amended to establish criteria and provisions for requiring removal of snow in all districts by property owners, occupants, and property managers to sidewalks abutting their property and to review and amend enforcement provisions including structure of fines, for snow removal violations. [10/25/10 @ 4:39 PM]

**ACTION:** **PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVAL AS AMENDED FAILED TO CARRY 3-3 (Gentile, Lappin, Lennon opposed)**  
**APPROVAL AS AMENDED FAILED TO CARRY 2-3-1 (Ciccone, Shapiro, Swiston opposed; Harney abstaining)**

**NOTE:** The Public Safety & Transportation Committee discussed the item jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please see the Public Facilities report for a detailed account of this discussion.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#30-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that \$150,000 be transferred from Budget Reserve to Police Department Overtime. [01/10/11 @ 6:06 PM]

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** Chief Cummings joined the Committee for discussion on this item. Chief Cummings said the requested appropriation of \$150,000 is because the Police Department is spending approximately \$12,250 per week on overtime due to personnel shortages including three retirements, one resignation and six cadets, who are currently enrolled in the academy. The cadets will complete the academy and will assume full time responsibilities in March 2011, which should reduce the weekly overtime rate. Chief Cummings estimates the requested \$150,000 will not be enough in the overtime account to carry the department through the end of the fiscal year, approximately \$300,000 will be necessary for this.

Ald. Shapiro asked Chief Cummings to compare last years' overtime account to now. Chief Cummings said the department is short by approximately \$80,000. Chairman Ciccone asked if it

would be beneficial to add a line item to the budget indicating overtime fund necessities. Chief Cummings said it is difficult to project the overtime needs and cannot move forward until a patrol officer completes retirement forms and a vacancy is available. He then said most patrol officers retire prior to 55 to 65 years of age. Ald. Fuller asked if this academy class helped by reducing the overtime account. Chief Cummings answered yes, when the cadets finish the academy and the street training process, which takes approximately six months. Ald. Fuller then said the overtime account is necessary each year because of retirements and the minimum staffing requirements, positions have to be filled. She then asked if it would be beneficial to the City to hire additional patrol officers saving on the overtime account. She also asked if it would be beneficial for the Public Safety & Transportation Committee to request and recommend during budget deliberations to hire additional patrol officers therefore, saving the City money in overtime. Chief Cummings agreed. He said spending approximately \$300,000 per year in overtime is not beneficial to the City because overtime is necessary when an officer is scheduled and does not report, school crossing guards do not report and to complete end of shift reports, etc. Ald. Harney agreed with Ald. Fuller reporting that over the past few years the City has been supplementing the Police Department overtime account. The cost for additional patrol officer's salaries, benefits and cost for the academy is less expensive than overtime costs. Chief Cummings said there are currently 136 patrol officers. Chairman Ciccone recommended 141. Ald. Harney asked if a civil service list was used to hire and choose patrol officers. Chief Cummings answered yes.

Ald. Shapiro made the motion to approve this appropriation. Committee members agreed 6-0.

#11-10      ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion relative to providing parking during a snow emergency for residents who live in housing without on-site parking.  
[12/21/09 @ 1:15 PM]

**ACTION:**      **NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Ald. Albright joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chairman Ciccone said Aaron Goldman, Citizen Assistance Officer has been researching this request. Mr. Goldman related the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newton Corner is willing to work with residents by offering approximately twenty-four garaged parking spaces at no cost to the resident or the City. He then said the Law Department first expressed their concerns but later approved the idea as long as the City did not have to pay a fee, which they were assured.

Committee members and Ald. Albright were very pleased with this offering. Ald. Albright offered to prepare a proclamation recognizing the Crowne Plaza for being neighborly.

Ald. Yates made the motion for no action necessary. Committee members agreed 6-0.

At approximately 9:10 pm, Ald. Shapiro made motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allan Ciccone, Jr., Chairman



SETTI D. WARREN  
MAYOR

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Office of the Mayor

#30-11

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January 10, 2011

Honorable Board of Aldermen  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from FY2011 Budget Reserve to Police Department Overtime.

Currently, the Police Department is spending approximately \$12,250 per week on overtime due to personnel shortages, comprised of 3 retirements, 1 resignation and 6 cadets who are currently enrolled in the academy. The cadets will be returning from the academy and will assume their full responsibilities during the month of March which should have a favorable impact on the weekly overtime run rate.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

11 JAN 10 P 6:06  
CITY CLERK  
NEWTON, MA 02159

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

[www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE



# City of Newton Police Department



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*Office of the Chief of Police*

HEADQUARTERS  
1321 WASHINGTON STREET  
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02465

MATTHEW A. CUMMINGS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

January 10, 2011

Hon. Mayor Setti D. Warren  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459-1449

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Respectfully request a special appropriation in the amount of \$150,000.00 to be placed in police overtime account 01 201 03 513001.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please direct any questions to me at extension 2101.

Very truly yours,

Matthew A. Cummings  
Chief of Police

FIRST ACCREDITED CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

