

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

Present: Ald. Yates (Chairman), Ald. Baker, Linsky, Ciccone, Swiston, and Harney;
absent: Ald. Danberg and Lappin
City staff: Michael Kruse (Director of Planning & Development), Linda Finucane (Chief
Committee Clerk)

#123-09 ALD. YATES requesting a report from His Honor the Mayor as to why
the Massachusetts Bio-Technology Council has not listed Newton as a
bio-ready community despite the fact that we have had an ordinance
intended to encourage such economic development in place for over a
decade and what steps the city would need to take to become bio-ready.
[4/30/09 @3:37 PM]

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Danberg not voting)

NOTE: The Chairman noticed an article (attached) in last Thursday's *Boston Globe*
listing the communities designated by the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MBC)
as "bio-ready." He wondered since the city had enacted a biotech ordinance in 1993 why
Newton was not on the list. He asked Planning & Development Director Mike Kruse to
contact the MBC and report to back to the Committee. Peter Abair, Director of
Economic Development for the MBC, said that the Council had invited municipalities to
workshops held statewide, but it was not clear to whom in Newton the invitation was sent
for the closest workshop held in Waltham. Since no one from Newton had attended, no
one had filled out a survey distributed by the MBC at the workshop. Last week, Mr.
Kruse completed and submitted the MBC survey on behalf of the city and after review,
the Council gave Newton a Bronze rating. Newton now joins 46 other municipalities that
have received Massachusetts BioReady ratings. Currently, the only biotechnology lab in
Newton is at Boston College. The one biotechnology company, Matritech, has left its
former site on Nevada Street. Mr. Kruse explained that it is unlikely that biotech
companies will locate in Newton because a special permit is required. The industry
prefers communities that are biotech-ready with existing buildings and no permitting
process. Alderman Baker moved No Action Necessary on the item and item #110-08
below. The motions carried unanimously. Attached, are a letter from Mr. Adair and an
explanation of the ratings used by the MBC.

#110-08 ALD. YATES asking the Economic Development Commission why the
City of Newton has attracted fewer biotechnology companies than other
suburbs despite the existence of an ordinance intended to encourage such
development. [3-3-07 @11:01 PM]

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Danberg not voting)

#46-09(2) ALDERMAN LINSKY proposing further amendments to the Home Business sections of Chapter 30 clarifying that the amount of square footage allowed for a home business may be located anywhere in the home though it is calculated from the square footage of the first floor and regulating the amount of automotive trips allowed to be generated according to the classification of the street or streets providing access to the property based on the Designation of Functional Road Classifications Policy, adopted by the Board of Aldermen April 6, 2006.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Baker, Danberg not voting)

NOTE: This item included the “controversial” sections of the proposed home business ordinance. Since the “non-controversial” sections did not pass the full Board on April 21, Alderman Linsky moved No Action Necessary, which carried 5-0. Alderman Baker had left to the join the Finance Committee and the Committee finished its scheduled business before the arrival of Alderman Danberg.

All other items were held without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian E. Yates, Chairman