

Prospect Hill ResiStat Meeting Notes

March 12, 2008

City Officials Present:

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of Somerville
Thomas F. Taylor, Ward 3 Alderman
Stephanie Hirsch, SomerStat Director
Capt. John O'Connor, Somerville Police Dept.
Ethan Field, ResiStat Analyst

Updates from Previous Meeting:

Ethan Field reviewed updates about issues raised at the 1/9/08 Prospect Hill ResiStat meeting. (See presentation)

- Regarding the question of trapping animals: Captain O'Connor added that if the City captures a wild animal, it is required to euthanize it; the SPD cannot release it into the wild. The City will immediately capture an animal if there are signs of strange or dangerous behavior, possibly indicating rabies.
-

Budget Priorities Presentation:

Ethan Field presented information about the City's budget process.

- A resident asked whether the City's police officers have bullet-proof vests. Capt. O'Connor responded said he believes 100% of the SPD have such vests. However, they are not required to wear them.
 - Another resident asked if the SPD was considering adding a K-9 unit (for drug- and chemical-sniffing dogs.) Capt. O'Connor replied that the City is exploring this; there is a considerable amount of training and screening required for K-9 officers.
-

Prospect Hill Budget Priorities:

The Prospect Hill residents were each given five votes to distribute any way they wished between the options described in the presentation. An additional option, "Expediting Somerville Avenue Project" was added.

Next Steps for City Staff:

These issues will be combined with other neighborhoods' priorities to create a resident budget priorities report. Issues that emerge as the highest neighborhood or City-wide priorities will inform the City Departments as they set their goals for the upcoming year. These departmental goals determine how each department prioritizes its staff time and budget.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Purchasing reduced-emission and alternate fuel City vehicles	3
Senior Housing developments	3
Renovating City parks	3
New youth programs and promotion of existing programs	3
Reducing Motor Vehicle Break-Ins	2
Expediting Somerville Ave Project	2
Citywide tree inventory and expanding number of trees by 20%	2
Safe-START pedestrian improvements	2
Implementing community policing program	2
Assembly Square traffic mitigation	1
Affordable housing developments	1
East Somerville Community School	1
Small Business micro-loans and storefront renovation grants.	1
Re-zoning Union Square	1
Weekend hours at our branch libraries	1
Citywide Wi-Fi	1
Reducing home break-ins	0
Magoun Square traffic/pedestrian renovations	0
Central welcome desk at City Hall	0
Dedicated computer kiosks in public buildings	0
Online credit card payment services for city bills and transactions	0
New city website and improved calendar of city events	0
Take over management of State-run facilities	0