

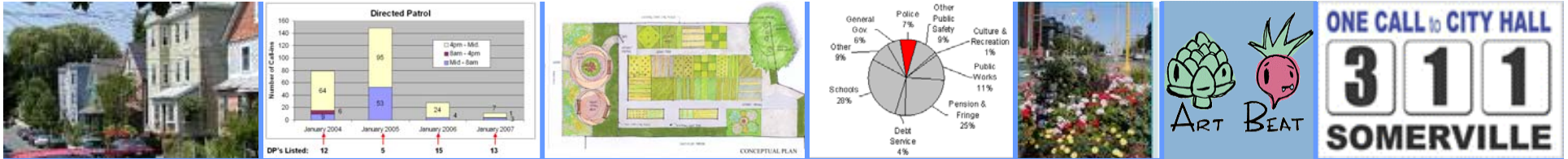


# Davis Square Neighborhood Budget Priorities Meeting

May 12, 2008



**City of Somerville**  
Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor  
Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Alderman, Ward 6



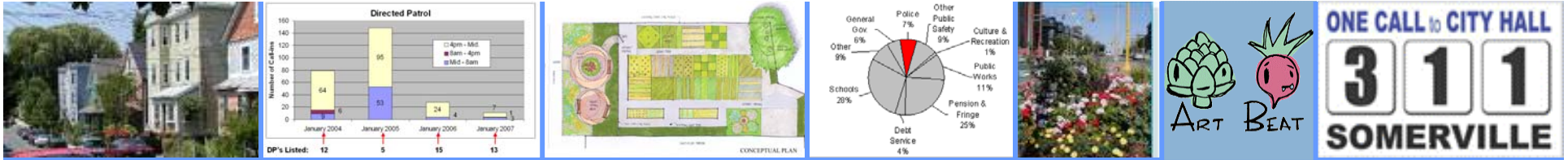
## 2. Introductions: SomerStat, ResiStat and Davis Square

**SomerStat** examines data internally with City Departments to improve services and efficiency, and to implement new ideas.

**ResiStat** works with Ward Aldermen to hold community meetings to bring SomerStat information and ideas to residents, solicit feedback, and bring resident priorities back to SomerStat.



This **Davis Square** ResiStat meeting will focus on identifying your priorities for the coming year. Your priorities will be combined with those of other residents into a **Resident Report** that will inform the City's budget priorities.



## 3. Budget: ResiStat and City Resources

**How should the City prioritize its staff time and money?**

In the rest of the meeting you will:

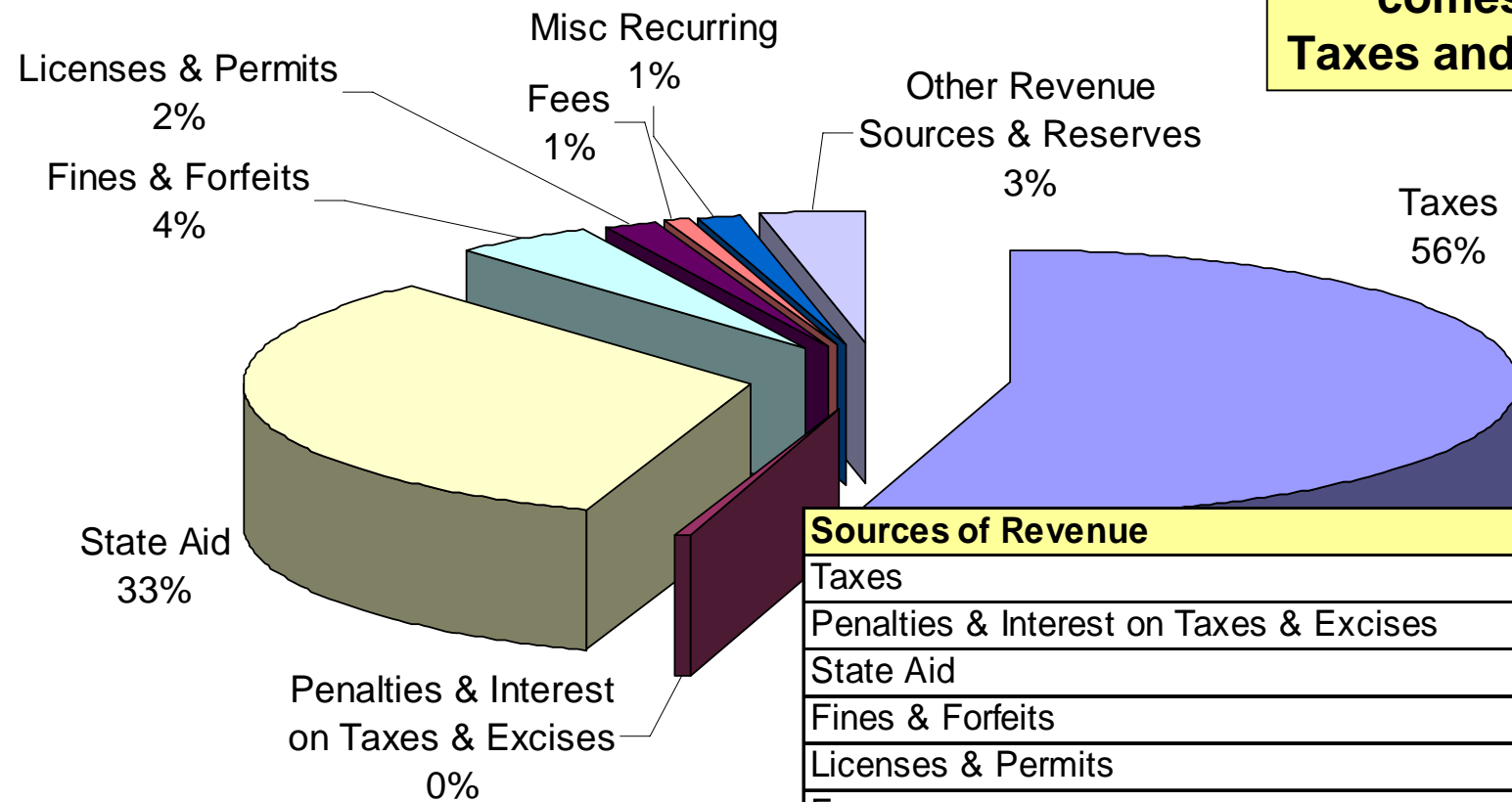
- Learn about factors impacting the City budget
- Learn how the City creates its budget
- Review and prioritize the issues that are most important to you.

Note: Most numbers included are from the FY'07 → FY'08 transition and will be different for FY'09. They are included for illustration only.

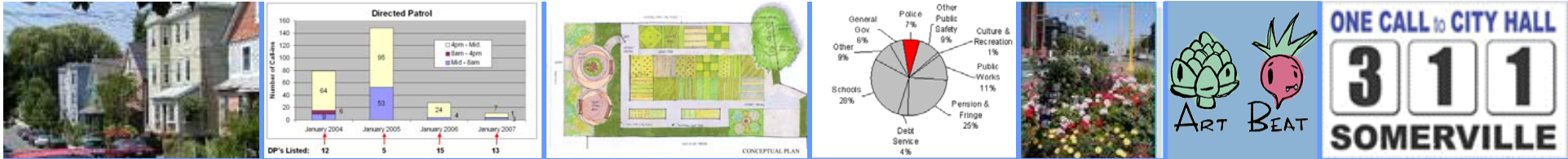


# 4. Budget: Revenue Sources

**88% of City revenue comes from Taxes and State Aid**



Sources of Revenue	FY08 Amount
Taxes	\$92,769,558
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excises	\$537,488
State Aid	\$56,017,890
Fines & Forfeits	\$7,365,543
Licenses & Permits	\$3,168,471
Fees	\$1,197,197
Misc Recurring	\$2,309,525
Other Revenue Sources & Reserves	\$5,772,363
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$169,138,035</b>



# 5. Budget: Revenue Increases

**Revenue generally increases a little each year, but growth is constrained.**

**Increases in taxes and State aid are constrained by:**

- **Proposition 2 ½:** City can only increase property tax rates by 2.5% (plus new growth) each year.
- **Economic Growth:** Fees for building permits, construction, etc. are driven by the national economy. When the economy suffers, so do these revenues.
- **State Aid:** Last year there was a net decrease in State funds; could happen again

Revenue increased by 3% (\$4,930,899) from Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2008

Sources of Revenue	FY07 Amount	FY08 Amount	Amount Difference	% Change
Taxes	\$ 88,573,445	\$ 92,769,558	\$ 4,196,113	4.7%
Penalties & Interest on Taxes & Excises	\$ 562,555	\$ 537,488	\$ (25,067)	-4.5%
State Aid (not including Assessments)	\$ 55,830,229	\$ 56,017,890	\$ 187,661	0.3%
Fines & Forfeits	\$ 7,135,597	\$ 7,365,543	\$ 229,946	3.2%
Licenses & Permits	\$ 2,650,108	\$ 3,168,471	\$ 518,363	19.6%
Fees	\$ 1,303,091	\$ 1,197,197	\$ (105,894)	-8.1%
Misc Recurring	\$ 2,169,798	\$ 2,309,525	\$ 139,727	6.4%
Other Revenue Sources & Reserves	\$ 5,982,313	\$ 5,772,363	\$ (209,950)	-3.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 164,207,136</b>	<b>\$ 169,138,035</b>	<b>\$ 4,930,899</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

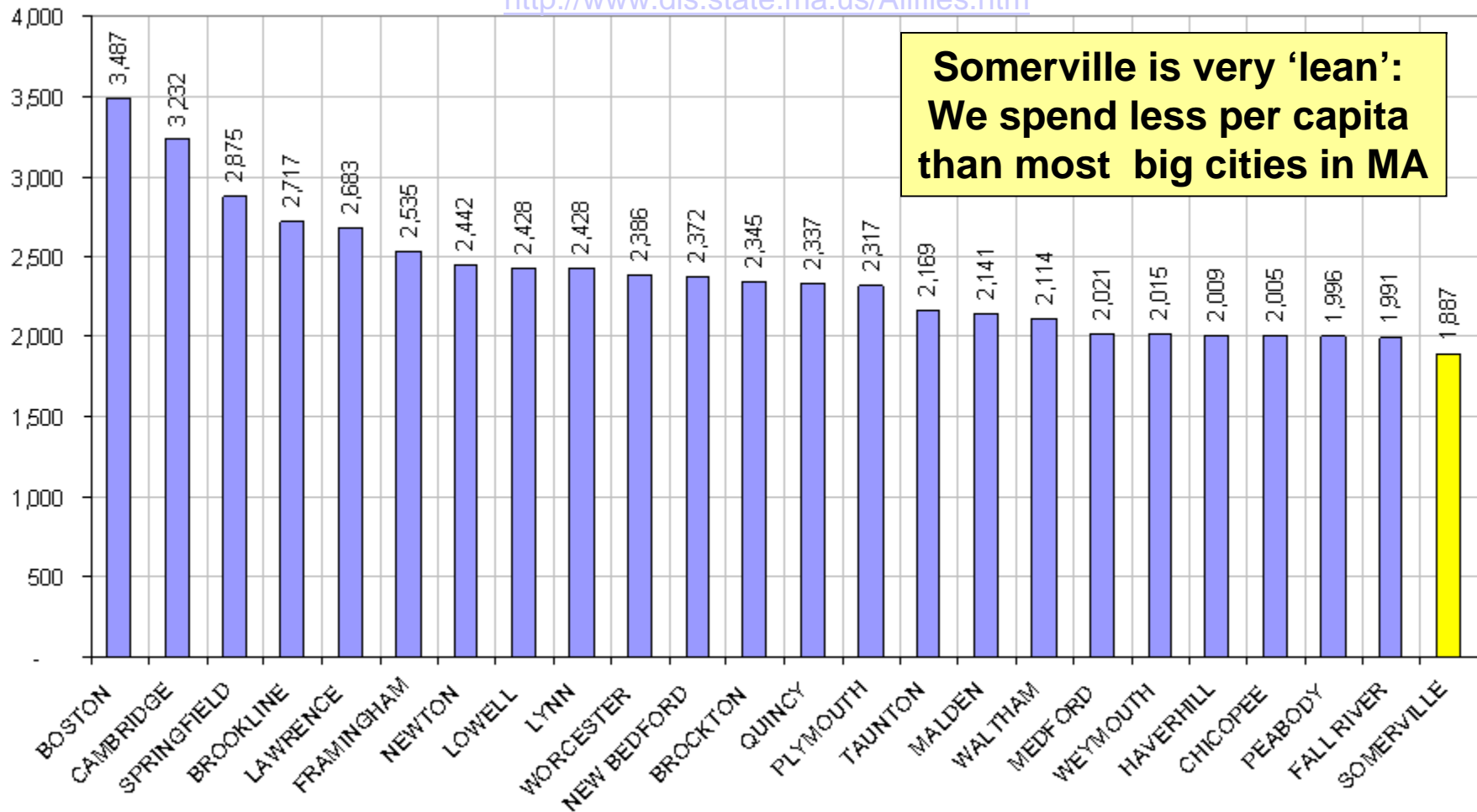


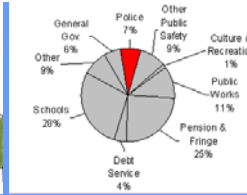
# 6. Budget: Spending per Resident

## FY05 General Fund Expenditures Per Capita for 50,000+ Population Cities

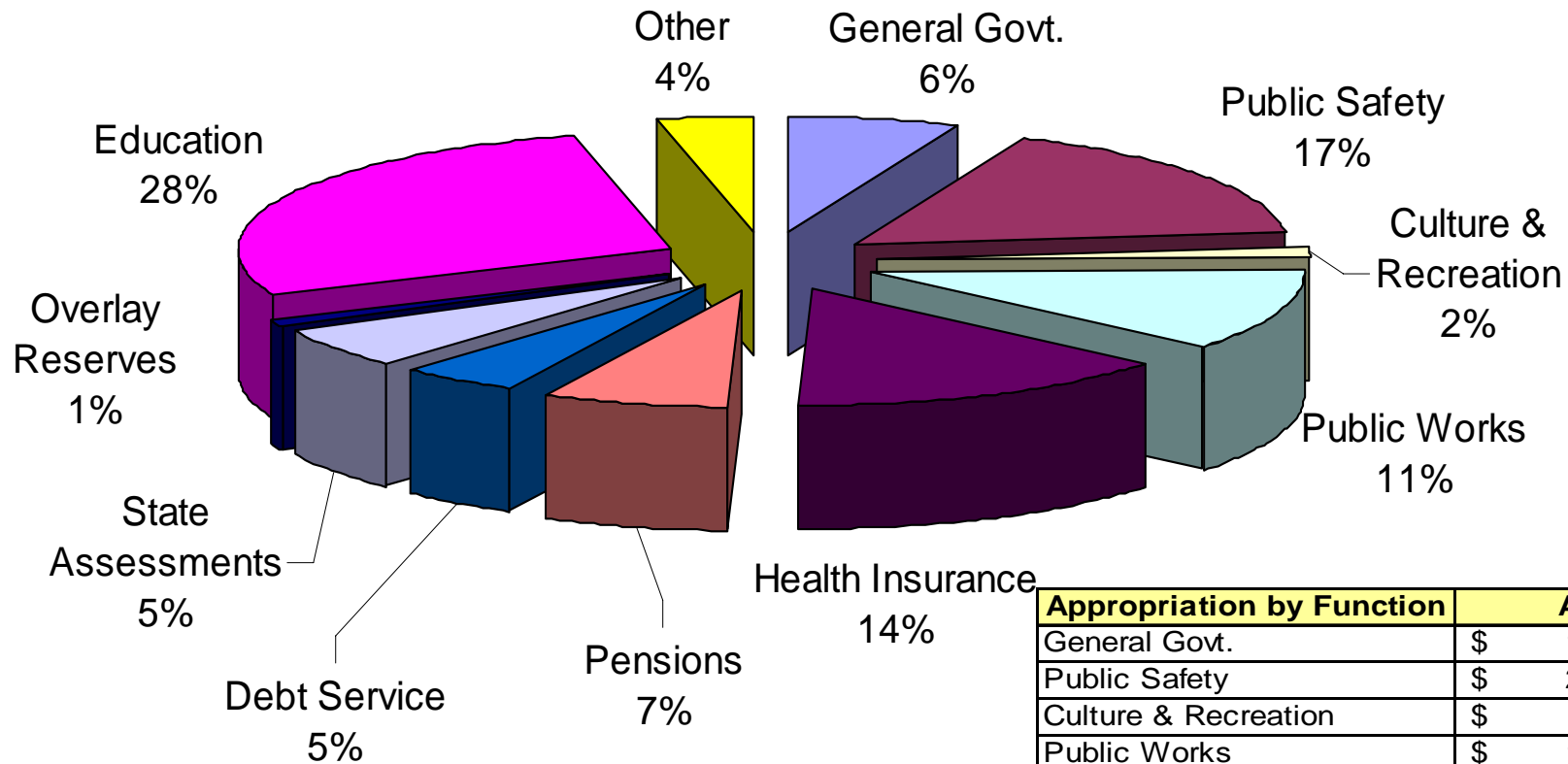
Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue Municipal Databank/Local Aid Section

<http://www.dls.state.ma.us/Allfiles.htm>



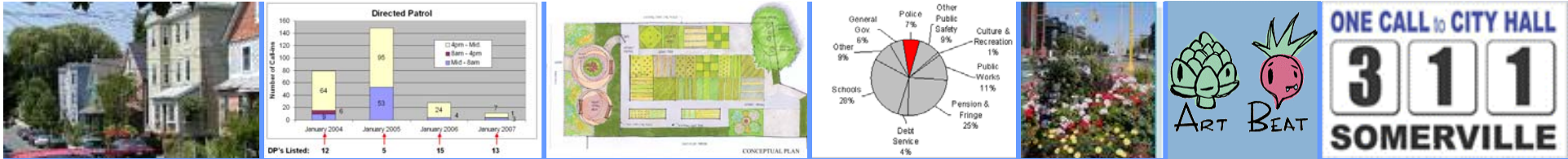


# 7. Budget: Expenses



~36% of expenses are **fixed costs** that the city is required by law or contract to cover.

Appropriation by Function	Amount
General Gov.	\$ 10,922,189.00
Public Safety	\$ 28,428,337.00
Culture & Recreation	\$ 2,599,885.00
Public Works	\$ 19,214,410.00
Health Insurance	\$ 24,268,601.00
Pensions	\$ 11,597,047.00
Debt Service	\$ 7,897,953.00
State Assessments	\$ 9,298,014.00
Other Employee Benefits	\$ 5,194,499.00
Overlay Reserves	\$ 1,800,000.00
Education	\$ 46,785,700.00
Other	\$ 1,131,400.00
<b>TOTAL CITY BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 169,138,035.00</b>



## 8. Budget: Fixed Expenses

Increases in fixed costs consume ~72% of the projected increases in revenue.

	Amount
Growth in Revenue (Possible)	\$4,930,899
Increase in Fixed Costs (Minumum)	\$3,545,451
<b>Available Discretionary Spending (Max)</b>	<b>\$1,385,448</b>
<b>Total City Budget</b>	<b>\$169,138,035</b>

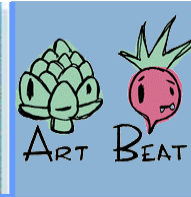
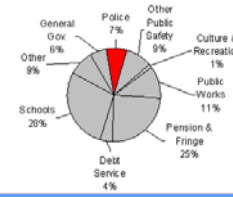
### Examples of Increases in Fixed Costs, FY07 → FY08:

Pensions	\$270,361	Collective Bargaining	\$795,000
Other Empl. Benefits	\$496,505	Gasoline	\$75,500
Debt Service	\$838,430	Utilities	\$210,466
State Assessments	\$767,451	Other	\$53,560

Health Insurance Premiums 12% annual increase  
 Waste Removal (Multiple factors)

= At least \$3,545,451 in increases the City is obligated to cover.

→ Less than 1% of total City Budget is available for new programs.



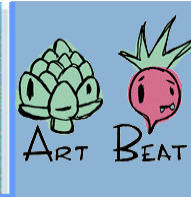
# 9. Budget: Cost per Output

**Cost per Output:**  
If new spending is available,  
how many \_\_\_\_\_ could \$1,385,448\* buy?

**Note:** Staff hires (esp. Public Safety) are multi-year commitments with built-in fixed increases. These figures include salary and bonuses, but not associated benefits, recruiting, hiring, supplies, equipment, police/fire academy, uniforms, firearms, or training costs.

Item	Cost per Output*	How Many?
Firefighters for 1 year	\$ 53,454.90	25
Police Officers for 1 year	\$ 47,082.74	29
Teacher for 1 year	\$ 35,589.00	38
Animal Control Officers	\$ 37,878.71	36
Raised Traffic Intersection	\$ 60,000.00	23
Designs for a Park	\$ 61,019.31	22
Dry Wells for Bike Path	\$ 9,000.00	153
Fund Participants in the Youth Program	\$ 154.61	8960
Fund Participants in the Adult Program	\$ 121.57	11396

\* Estimates only – actual figures may vary significantly.



# 10. Budget: Program-Based Budget

The city's **Program-Based Budget** contains written goals for each department, and the cost-per-output for those goals.

- Overall Budget Priorities (in order):**
- 1) **Maintain existing municipal services**, especially essential services provided by School, Police, Fire, and DPW.
  - 2) **Prevent layoffs.**
  - 3) Ensure adequate funding for **fixed and mandated expenses.**
  - 4) **Cost-of-living adjustments** for staff.
- And after those are secure...*
- 5) **Expansion** of existing services, programs, and staff.

ORG 8000: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS			
PROGRAM COST AND ACTIVITIES			
PROGRAM: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS- PARKS AND MAINTENANCE			
<i>Description: Provide ongoing maintenance and custodial services for City and school owned buildings and grounds to ensure that City employees and Somerville residents have access to clean and safe public buildings and grounds.</i>			
<b>PROGRAM COST CENTER SUMMARY</b>			
	FY06 (Act.)	FY07 (Proj.)	FY08 (Proj.)
<i>Key Output: # of buildings, parks and open spaces maintained (Actual)</i>	102	126	126
<i>Program Cost</i>	\$5,124,413.04	\$5,680,647.92	\$3,390,164.49
<i>Cost per Output:</i>	\$50,239.34	\$45,163.87	\$26,906.06
<i>FTEs:</i>	23.34	23.34	23.34
<i>Outcome 1: % of residents surveyed expressing an opinion who are satisfied with the appearance and maintenance of parks (Resident satisfaction survey)</i>	02%		
<i>Outcome 2: % of residents surveyed expressing an opinion who are satisfied with the overall appearance of Somerville (Resident satisfaction survey)</i>	57%		
<b>PROGRAM FY08 GOALS</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pave the Brown School schoolyard and surrounding walkways.</li> <li>2. Repair the roof at the East Somerville Community School.</li> <li>3. Clean parks, playgrounds and tot lots using the newly purchased sidewalk sweepers.</li> </ol>			
<b>PROGRAM FY07 GOAL REVIEW</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add 5 more Sponsor-A-Spot locations. (Complete)</li> <li>2. Develop a preventative maintenance program for graffiti in parks. (In part)</li> <li>3. Renovate bathrooms at West branch libraries. (Complete)</li> </ol>			
<b>PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS</b>			
<b>Complete Emergency Repairs</b>	FY06 (Act.)	FY07 (Proj.)	FY08 (Proj.)
	1,000	1,000	1,000
<i>Description: Be available 24 hours a day to provide for the maintenance, security, and safety of City buildings, schools, and grounds.</i>			
<i>Output: # of emergency repairs completed (Estimate)</i>			
<b>Issue Park Permits</b>	FY06 (Act.)	FY07 (Proj.)	FY08 (Proj.)
	215	300	230
<i>Description: Issue permits for using City parks, preventing scheduling conflicts, and providing access to City facilities.</i>			
<i>Output: # of permits issued (Actual)</i>			
<b>Provide Snow Plowing, Sanding and Shoveling Services</b>	FY06 (Act.)	FY07 (Proj.)	FY08 (Proj.)
	85	85	85
<i>Description: Plow, sand, and shovel all schools, municipal buildings, municipal lots, and parks.</i>			
<i>Output: # of locations plowed, sanded, or shoveled (Actual)</i>			



# 11. Budget: Resident Report

## Where Do Residents Fit In?

This year, your feedback will help us assemble our first ever **Resident Budget Report**. In this smaller report, we plan to have a section for each Ward, with each ResiStat group's priorities listed.

Each group's goals will also be reflected in various departments' goals in the ~425-page **Program Budget**.

Group's priorities listed in the Resident Report will be priorities for city departments in FY09.


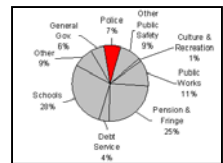
### Ward 6

**Elected Officials:**

~~~~~  
~~~~~

**Data Trends in Ward 6**

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- ~~~~~
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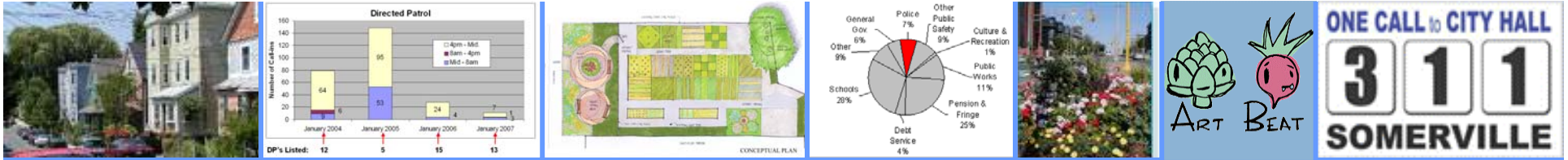



**Plans Underway for Ward 6**

- ~~~~~
- ~~~~~

**FY'09 Goals for Ward 6**

- ~~~~~
- ~~~~~
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## 12. Budget: Approximate Timeline

**March:** Budget planning documents sent to department heads.

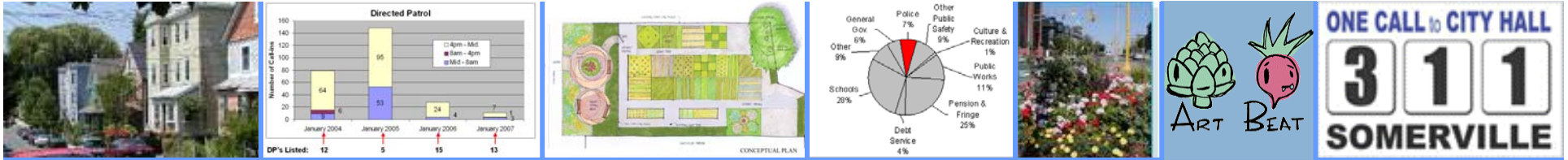
**March – May:** SomerStat solicits resident input through ResiStat meetings

**April:** SomerStat collects goals and priorities from departments

**April - May:** SomerStat reviews program goals with Department heads and identifies cost allocations for the program budget.

**April – May:** Finance Office, Departments, and Mayor's Office assemble budget proposals

**Late May:** SomerStat generates final draft Program Budget. Finance Office generates proposed municipal budget. Mayor presents budget to Board of Aldermen.



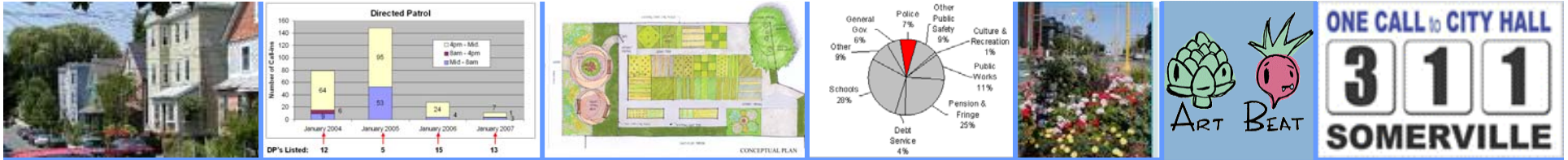
## 13. Budget: Approximate Timeline

**Late May - June:** Board of Aldermen holds budget hearings, including:

- Reviews of goals and objectives
- New priorities
- Rigorous questioning of City staff
- Board can make cuts
- Board can resolve that the Mayor add funding for specific purposes.

All hearings are open to the public.

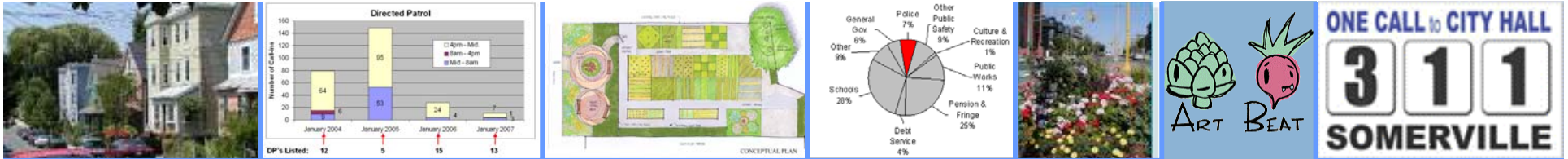
**Late June:** Board of Aldermen votes on final budget.



## 14. Prioritizing

### What's Most Important?

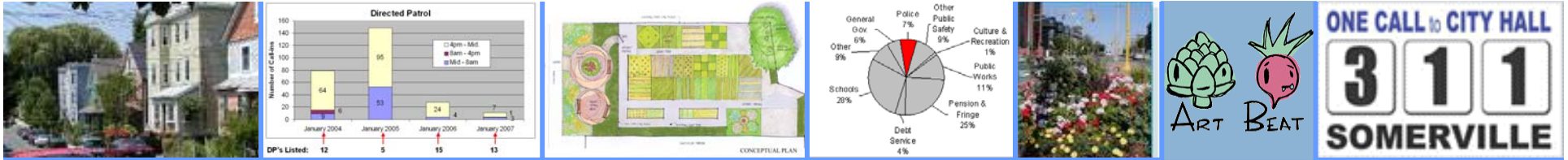
1. The next two slides are lists of known requests in the neighborhood/ward. We'll give you a chance to add any major priorities you feel are missing. We've also included a list of the Mayor's priorities, to let you know what's already in the works.
2. After we generate a list, everyone will get a strip with 5 stickers on it, each representing a 'vote'. You can place your votes however you wish (could be all 5 votes for one item, or 3 for one item and 2 for another item, or 1 vote each for five different items, etc.)
3. Your priorities will be combined with other ResiStat groups' priorities to inform both the Mayor and the Aldermen as they move through this spring's budget process.
  - Many of these items are already in process, but knowing that a particular item is a major priority for residents helps prioritize staff time, persistence, and accountability.



## 15. Neighborhood Priorities: From other meetings

### Known Davis Square Neighborhood Priorities (from other meetings):

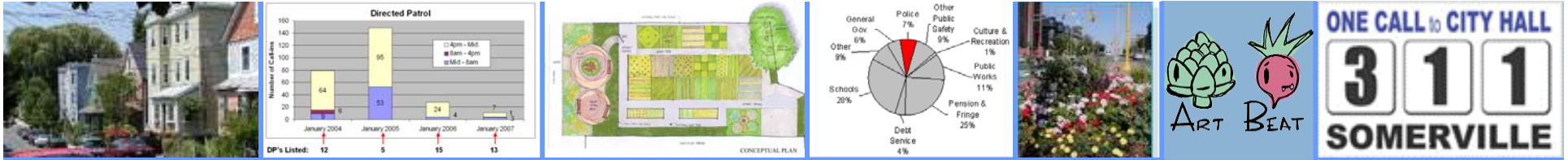
- Pursue absentee landlords who do not clear snow from their sidewalks
- Address pedestrian and bike safety concerns at both ends of Wallace & Irving Streets
- Address and reduce double-parking in the square, particularly by commercial delivery truck.
- Increase number of police officers on foot and on bikes.
- Address increase in motor vehicle break-ins
- Address home break-ins
- Address noise concerns in the Square, especially Friday and Saturday nights
- Upgrade the corner sidewalk ramps at Russell/Elm/Cutter/Summer to be ADA-compliant
- Place holiday lights in Powderhouse Park in the winter



## 16. Neighborhood Priorities: From other meetings

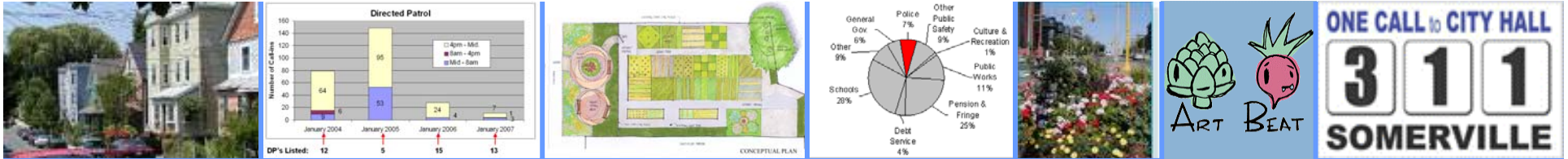
### Known Ward 6 Priorities (brought to the BOA by Ald. Gewirtz):

- Do an inventory of raised and broken bricks on sidewalks in Davis Square and initiate a plan to address the problem
- Place emergency call boxes on the community path
- Make information about the Property Tax Deferral Program and its benefits to income eligible residents over 65 more readily accessible
- Involve experienced, knowledgeable area resident voices in the Davis Square Hotel Advisory Group
- Initiate a program modeled on Belmont's One Book One Belmont program that supports reading a common book as a way to bring the community together
- Require stores over 5000 square feet to provide plastic bag recycling
- BOA should create a tree-preservation ordinance.



## 17. City Initiatives: Announced in Mayor's Inaugural

- **Management of State-run facilities:** The rest of the Dilboy complex as well as Foss Park, and Veterans Memorial Rink.
- **Assembly Square traffic mitigation**
- Purchase of reduced-emission and alternate fuel **City vehicles**
- Creation of **Senior Housing developments** at Capen Court.
- Creation of **Affordable housing developments**
- Rebuilding of **East Somerville Community School**
- Renovation of **Magoun Square** traffic/pedestrian infrastructure
- Outreach to small business community through **micro-loans and storefront renovation grants.**
- **Re-zoning of Union Square**
- Pushing FAA to addressing increase in **airplane noise**
- Addressing increase in **motor vehicle break-ins.**
- **Renovation of City parks:** New soccer fields at Lincoln Park and the Capuano School, extending the Community Path, new open space along Central Street, rebuilding Albion, Grimmons and Hodgkins Parks, adding new park facilities at Zero New Washington Street and 111 South Street.



## 18. City Initiatives: Announced in Mayor's Inaugural

- Conducting **Citywide tree inventory**, expanding the City tree canopy by 20% over four years.
- Implementing **Safe-START pedestrian improvements**: Pedestrian countdown displays on traffic lights; updated Safe Route maps for Parents and Children; new bike lanes on Somerville Avenue, equipment for faster; better pothole repairs; more pedestrian bump-outs to calm traffic and improve safety at key intersections.
- Implementing **community policing program**, including two new substations in East and West Somerville.
- Creation of **weekend hours at our branch libraries**
- Providing a **Central welcome desk** at City Hall
- Providing dedicated **computer kiosks in public buildings** that allow users to perform many common transactions without waiting in line
- Providing **online credit card payment** services for city bills and transactions, including tax bills and online appeals process for parking violations.
- Unveiling a more user-friendly **city website and improved calendar of city events**.
- Providing **Citywide Wi-Fi**



## 19. Next Steps

### Next Steps:

- Bring neighborhood priorities to budget process.
- Consider resident priorities when assessing options for improvements.

*Contact us anytime!*

**Ethan Field**

**ResiStat Analyst**

SomerStat Office, City Hall

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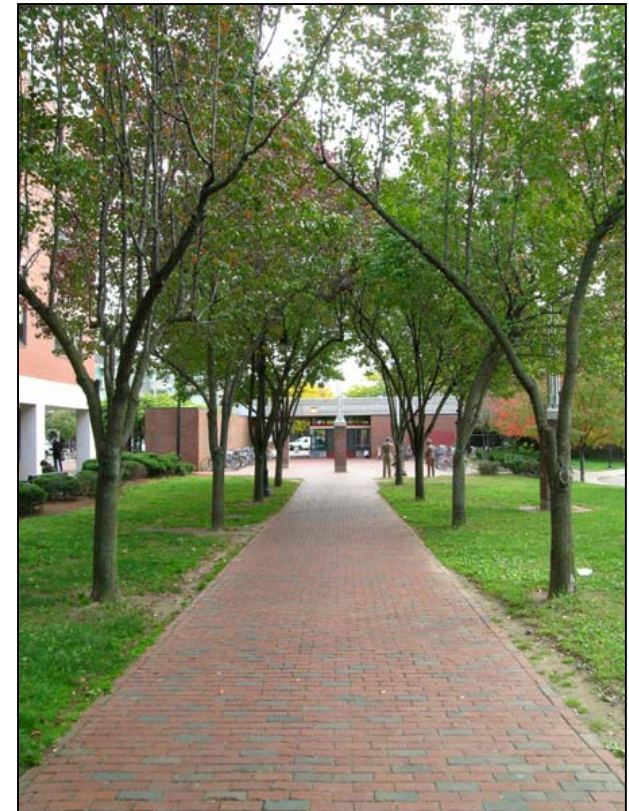
617-625-6600 x2112

**Rebekah Gewirtz**

**Ward 6 Alderman**

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[Rebekah@rcn.com](mailto:Rebekah@rcn.com)



<http://www.somervillema.gov/Division.cfm?orgunit=SOMSTAT>

Get email updates: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Davis-Square/>

Call 311 and ask to be added to the "Davis Square Connect-CTY" call list.