

Ward 4 Fall ResiStat Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 15th, 2008

Officials Present:

- Joe Curtatone, Mayor
- Walter Pero, Ward 4 Alderman
- Carl Sciortino, Massachusetts House of Representatives, 34th Middlesex District
- Tony Holloway, Somerville Police Chief
- Paul Upton, Somerville Deputy Police Chief
- Michael Cabral, Somerville Deputy Police Chief
- Michael Devereaux, Somerville Police Captain
- Neil Collins, Ward 4 Neighborhood Police Officer
- Sean Murphy, Director of 311
- Phil Ercolini, Director of Housing for the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
- Stephanie Hirsch, Director of SomerStat

Updates on Issues from Previous Meetings:

After introductions of all attendees, updates were provided on the following topics. Please see the accompanying presentation for more information on these topics:

- Overview of the Ward 4 Resident Report
- Updates on Development Issues: Assembly Square and Winter Hill Star Market property
- Updates on Public Safety
- Park Renovations
- Updates on State Property Issues: Waterfront, Foss Park, Roads and Traffic

Break-Out Sessions:

The following three breakout discussions were convened:

Public Safety

- Residents expressed concern about the lighting under the bridge of 93 and Temple Street, as well as near the Boathouse.
- Residents said they have noticed greater police presence and hope this continues.
- Residents expressed concerns about strangers walking around that seemed suspicious and about unidentified solicitors.
- The Chief encouraged residents to call 911 for any emergency and to call 311 for any quality of life issue. Residents may also contact their neighborhood police officer, Neil Collins, for any concerns they would like to discuss. Officer Collins' e-mail address is ncollins@police.somerville.ma.us.

Development Issues (Assembly Square, Star Market site, Parks)

- Residents were interested in the design of the proposed pedestrian underpass under Route 28 along the Mystic. City staff said that there will be community input solicited prior to its construction.
- Residents expressed concern about lighting on Shore Drive under 93 and lighting by the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse. (This concern was expressed by each breakout group).

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- Residents were interested in the fate of the property at the former Star Market site and expressed hope that there could be another grocery store or a specialty store like Trader Joe's.

State Issues

- Residents may contact a DCR staff person, Richard Scott. His number is 617-727-1058.
- Residents expressed an interest in having two crosswalks across Shore Drive, such as on Bailey or Governor Winthrop Roads.
- Residents reiterated that the blinking turn light on Shore Drive is not working.
- Residents reported that lights come on at 7:20 p.m., however it is getting darker earlier.
- There was a discussion of state budget problems, which may even further reduce service levels.