

Ward 6 Fall ResiStat Meeting Notes

Wednesday, Nov. 5th, 2008

Officials Present:

- Rebekah Gewirtz, Ward 6 Alderman
- Tony Pierantozzi, Superintendent of Schools
- Tony Holloway, Somerville Police Chief
- Paul Upton, Somerville Deputy Police Chief
- John O'Connor, Somerville Police Captain
- Officer Mike Ameral, Ward 6 Neighborhood Police Officer
- David Lutes, Director of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment
- Anne Thomas, Counsel for Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
- Terry Smith, City Traffic Engineer
- Larry Murphy, City Parking Clerk
- 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:

- 311 Call Trends
- Park Renovation – Hodgkins-Curtin Park
- Davis Square Development
 - Powder House School Plans
 - Hotel RFP/RFQ
 - Bike Path Extension
- Traffic and Parking
 - Double Parking in the Square
 - Traffic and Pedestrian Safety
- Public Safety

Question and Answers:

The following issues were raised by attendees:

Public Safety

- Police Review of Davis Square Live Journal: A resident requested that police commanders review the Davis Square Live Journal discussions. The Chief said that it is important for residents to report all crime because officers review reports as well as analyze data for crime trends. City Officials also suggested that if residents are reviewing the live journal and notice a discussion of a trend, they should contact either of their neighborhood police officers (NPO). NPOs are charged with working with residents to find solutions to problems. The Ward 6 neighborhood police officers are Mike Ameral (mameral@police.somerville.ma.us) and William Carr (wcarr@police.somerville.ma.us). Residents can also call 311 at any time, day or night, to report any quality of life issues to which they would like the Police to respond.

Environmental:

- Recycling: Residents asked if it would be possible for the city to encourage recycling more. City Officials said that the city is currently bidding out the trash collection contract and is

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looking at moving to “single stream” recycling, which will potentially allow residents to put all recycling in one, larger, covered bin.

Other Issues:

- Crosswalk Ramp Cuts: A resident said that the ramps are not in the same place for each intersection and are not the same width. City officials said that there are very specific requirements for ramps and that as the city adds crosswalks and resurfaces streets, it is building the walks to specification. This process, however, is expensive and therefore slow.
- Snow Shoveling Enforcement: A resident expressed concern about the City’s enforcement of shoveled walks. City officials said that it has submitted to the Board of Alderman a proposal to increase fines for failure to shovel. A resident said that he is frustrated when the city does not shovel sidewalk in front of property it owns, such as some parking lots in Davis Square. City officials encouraged residents to call 311 for any unshoveled walks, whether city owned or privately owned.