

Protection and License Committee

Chairman Infurna, Boisselle,
McAteer-Margolis, Forbes
Absent: Brodeur
Attending: Mortimer
In attendance: Police Chief Mike
Lyle

Protection and License called to order by Chairman Infurna at 7:35 p.m. Alderman Forbes motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman McAteer-Margolis motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 09-014, GRANT Amount: \$7,500.00 From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety To: Fund #2519-Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Equipment Grant

Chief Lyle says there is a typo in the order and the amount is only \$2,500.00. The program was developed a few years ago and the Department has been fortunate to receive the grant every year. Car seats and booster seats are provided as well as the opportunity to swap an old car seat for a new one.

Alderman Forbes asks if it is a replacement program or do people buy them. Chief Lyle says there are no sales, just replacements.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis says she would like to clarify the amount. The letter states that \$5,000 was received in July and the department will receive \$2,500 in the fall. Chief Lyle says the maximum allocation is \$2,500, which has to be spent before the fall.

Alderman McAteer-Margolis motions to amend the amount from \$7,500 to \$2,500, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Alderman Mortimer asks if there is a specific time to see Officer Applegate to receive either a car seat or booster seat. Chief Lyle says Officer Applegate broke his leg and is out of work for 12 weeks. Interested individuals will need to make an appointment. The department will purchase the equipment before September 30 and hold it at the station.

On the amendment, All in favor.

Alderman Forbes moves to recommend as amended, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 09-015, GRANT Amount: \$7,291.00 From: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety To: Fund #2529-Police SETB (9-1-1) Training Grant

Alderman McAteer-Margolis moves to recommend, 2nd by Forbes.

Alderman Forbes asks if Chief Lyle applies for this grant every year. Chief Lyle says yes.

Alderman Mortimer asks what exactly this money is used for. Chief Lyle says it is to

enhance 9-1-1 training. He uses a facility in North Andover. He wants to train all lieutenants in it.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Forbes motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Protection and License adjourns at 7:46 p.m.

Health, Education and Welfare

Chairman McAteer-Margolis,
Forbes, Boisselle, Infurna
Absent: Brodeur
Attending: Mortimer
In attendance: Council on Aging
Executive Director Jack Beckley

Health, Education and Welfare called to order by Chairman McAteer-Margolis at 7:47 p.m. Order No. 09-016, Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances, Chapter 6-3.1. Senior citizen property tax work-off abatement program as set forth herein.

Mr. Beckley says this program has been in existence since 2001. It is a wonderful program but it is underused. Twenty-five slots were created for senior citizens to work and if more than that signed up a lottery would be used to select the participants. Since 2001 the state created the circuit breaker. With fewer restraints and no work requirement for the state program, numbers in the City's program have been low. There were 12 participants in 2001 and only 6 participants in 2007. It is a valuable program and it is marvelous for senior citizens to have the opportunity to offer something to the City. He wanted to do something to make the program more attractive to people. The proposed income eligibility will remain the same for individuals but change for married couples from 2½ times the poverty level to 3 times the poverty level. It also increases the maximum amount which can be earned from \$500 to \$750.00. The last change would be to make it available every year instead of every other year. The hardest part of the program is departmental training, but people want to come back the next year.

Alderman Boisselle asks in which departments people would be able to work. Mr. Beckley says departments all over the City: Police, Fire, City Clerk's, Council on Aging, Schools, the City Yard. The problem he's had is that he has only had a handful of people each year and most have said they want to participate the following year. He's had to shut them out even though there was room for them.

Alderman Mortimer asks if a change to the hourly rate is proposed in the order. Mr. Beckley says he wanted to but state law restricts it to minimum wage. Alderman Mortimer asks if it's worthwhile to address the state delegation. Mr. Beckley says he would like to see it raised and he thinks it's reasonable. Alderman Mortimer asks if there is anything in the statute to prevent a person from working in consecutive years. Mr. Beckley says no. He also says that the Chief Assessor is comfortable with the program and with the numbers.

Alderman Infurna moves to recommend, 2nd by Boisselle. All in favor.

Chairman McAteer-Margolis says the order will be sent to the Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters.

Alderman Infurna motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Health, Education and Welfare adjourns at 8:08 p.m.

There are no orders in Public Works to be acted on.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees