

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Public Safety Committee

**FROM:** Mary Costigan  
Associate Corporation Counsel

**DATE:** May 9, 2008

**RE:** **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting held on March 11, 2008**

Councilor Marshall, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, convened the meeting at 5:40 p.m. with Councilors Duson and Donoghue present.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2008 meeting.

The Committee then took action on the following items:

### Enforcement of Parking Bans in the Old Port and the Arts District

The purpose of the discussion was to see whether current policy regarding towing in certain areas during a snow ban should be codified. Mike Bobinsky explained the current system, which focuses towing in the areas outside the Old Port at the start of the ban at 10:00 pm and moving into the Old Port to tow starting at 2:00 am. He expressed a concern with being able to clear snow in a timely manner if any restrictions were codified. He suggested that they bring the issue to the PDD nightlife committee.

Councilor Marshall stated that he did not want to compromise snow removal, but to formalize an informal policy.

Jan Beitzer of PDD stated that she agreed that it should go to the nightlife committee and she would report back.

Jon Peverada stated that he is concerned about how different tow times for different areas would be communicated to the public.

Councilor Donoghue sought clarification regarding the city's current practices. Mike Bobinsky responded that during city-wide bans that are in effect from 10pm through 6am, the east and west ends are plowed first and the plows work their way toward the Old Port.

### Farmer's Market Ordinance Amendments

Mary Costigan explained the proposed changes. She stated that the section is proposed to be renamed "Framer's Markets" and the dates and locations of the farmer's market were being added to the text of the ordinance, rather than having to search old Council orders to find them. Additionally, references to the Portland Public Market were being deleted from the entire Code, as it no longer exists.

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend the proposed amendments

### High and Congress Street Safety

Councilor Marshall stated that he is concerned with the speed of vehicles on High Street and would like to see the speed limit lowered. He also would like to see the automatic pedestrian cycle reinstated at the intersection.

Mike Bobinsky stated that he had spoken with MDOT and they are going to begin a speed study. They will give the city an informal report and the city will have a chance to pull the study if it doesn't like the results. With regard to the automatic pedestrian cycle at the intersection, he stated that reinstating it would have traffic implications on High Street.

Councilor Donoghue requested further information regarding the State St. intersection, particularly when the speed limit was reduced and how the State and High Street intersections relate to the Congress Street study. He noted that State St. does have an automatic pedestrian cycle. He said that pedestrians at the High Street intersection expect the automatic cycle.

Councilor Duson said she is interested in seeing the information regarding State St. She stated that she believes the two intersections are different and should be treated differently. She requested more information regarding the signage on the signal and whether it is clear that pedestrians have to push the button.

Traffic Engineer Jim Carmody stated that he pulled the accident reports and they show that there is an average of 18 accidents per year, including rear-ends and side swipes. One accident last year involved a pedestrian and it was the only one for the last 3 years.

Jan Beitzer stated that she would like to see the speed limit reduced to 25 mph on High St. She suggested installing red light cameras to help with enforcement. She supports anything pedestrian friendly and would like to see improvements to the Spring and High St. intersection as well.

### Wheelchairs on Streets

Councilor Marshall explained that this item was requested by Councilor Donoghue due to the increase in the number of electric wheelchairs on the street and the increase in complaints regarding them.

Councilor Donoghue stated that he would like to see a requirement for lighting.

Mary Costigan stated that she did not find anything in the motor vehicle statutes regarding the use of wheelchairs on the street.

Councilor Duson stated that there are relevant statutes and she would forward the info to Mary.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.