December 14, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

The committee on Post Audit and Oversight held over 15 hearings this calendar year to consider the budget for FY2010 and FY2011 (1st Quarter) and the Law Enforcement trust Fund. Many issues were discussed during these hearings. The proposed cuts in the Boston Public Library and the Boston Centers for Youth and Families and the Boston Public School Department generated the most participation by our members. Fiscal Year 2010 ended with a surplus of $9,088,356. Better than projected income resulted from the newly enacted meals excise taxes which went into effect after the FY2010 Budget was approved.

Only one major department overspent its budget in FY2010. The Boston Police Department incurred a deficit of $11,538,388.36. The overtime budget of the Boston Police Department continues to be a problem for the department which overspent its appropriation by $9,695,018. The Boston Public Library spent all of its appropriation of $29,862,260. The Boston Centers for Youth and Families stayed within its tight budget of $21,811,329. The Boston Public Schools was appropriated $817,882,402 and spent all but $52,187.

FY2011 budget include significant cuts in personnel for the Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Library and Boston Centers for Youth and Families. More than 90% of all proposed cuts in staff for FY2011 are represented in these three departments.

A final hearing was held on December 10, 2010 to consider the three dockets, focusing on the Boston Police Department. The Police commissioner noted that his department will likely overspend its overtime budget by at least $5 Million. The Boston Police Department will forward the information requested for the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Please contact my office if you need additional information

I hereby recommend that the three dockets 0248, #1048 and #0564 be placed on file.

For the Chair:

Charles C. Yancey
Committee on Post Audit and Oversight