December 13, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss Docket #1652, Message and order authorizing the Department of Innovation of Technology to enter into a contract for a period of up to eight years for the procurement of software licenses, implementation services and maintenance and support of a computer aided dispatch system and a records management system. This matter was sponsored by the Mayor, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, December 8th, 2010 and heard at a public hearing on Monday, December 13th, 2010 at which public comment was taken.

Docket #1652 is an order to allow the Chief Information Officer, on behalf of the City of Boston, to enter into an 8-year contract for hardware, software and certain computing services for the City's public service agencies. Generally, contracts for services are limited to 3 year terms; this order will grant permission to the City to commit to an extended contract.

The City's Chief Information Officer, Bill Oates, is currently in negotiation with a provider to design and implement a computer aided dispatch (CAD) system for the City's public safety agencies. Authorizing the City to negotiate an 8-year contract will allow for its effective negotiation and will offer additional leverage in discussing support service costs. Negotiating the cost and scope of support services at this time is critically important, as the City's bargaining power will not be as strong 3 years from now.

The Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #1652, Message and order authorizing the Department of Innovation of Technology to enter into a contract for a period of up to eight years for the procurement of software licenses, implementation services and maintenance and support of a computer aided dispatch system and a records management system

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, the Chair respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass.

Maureen Feeney, Chair

Committee on Government Operations