

## Observer Report

**Council or Committee:** City Council

**Date:** 11/26/07

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present/Absent:** Lionel Jean-Baptiste was absent

**Staff Present:** Carroll, Hill, others

**Media Present:** Roundtable, Review

**Meeting Began:** 8:45 PM

**Meeting Ended:** 10:30 PM

**No. of Citizens in Attendance:** 10 plus about 7 fire dept. personnel

Jean Esch spoke about the change since Council is down to 9 persons: one person can't handle all the ward business, council lacks oversight, staff is running the City.

David Stein objected to a \$500 fine for a liquor violation; handled through an administrative hearing and not given due process. Carroll noted this.

**Significant Discussions, Action Taken:** Approved to hire a national head hunter to look for a Community Works Director and for a Public Works Director. The big issue, as you have read about, was the extension of the moratorium in downtown development. The decision was to delay the moratorium until the next Council meeting, two days after it would have expired (done because Jean-Baptiste was not present). Lots of parliamentary questions – Herb was called back to the podium numerous times. The vote was split in committee so the Mayor was asking many questions about the issue since she thought she would have to be a tiebreaker.

**Your comments, impressions: is League action needed?** No League action. I was somewhat dismayed that the Council did not have the skills to handle the moratorium action without asking Herb to lend his opinion.