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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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No Funding Forthcoming for Waban Parking Meters

NEWTON – Mayor David Cohen announced today that he will not seek funding from the Board of Aldermen to install parking meters in Waban Square. The proposal was approved by the Traffic Council and by a unanimous vote of the Board of Aldermen on July 10, 2006. However, Mayor Cohen has refrained from requesting the \$30,000 appropriation from the Board to install the 80 parking meters the plan calls for.

“I have personally heard from many Waban residents who expressed opposition to this proposal,” explained Mayor Cohen. “When Aldermen (Christine) Samuelson and (Brian) Yates called to express their concerns to me, I notified them that I will not seek an appropriation for meters in Waban now or in the future.”

Alderman Samuelson, the Ward Alderman from Waban and Chair of the Board’s Committee on Public Safety and Transportation, agreed with Mayor Cohen’s decision. “When I found out that the notification process in this matter was flawed, and that a significant number of residents and business owners had not been notified about this proposal, I called the mayor,” she said. “That’s not how we do business in the City of Newton.”

Both Mayor Cohen and Alderman Samuelson are now exploring the possibility of making improvements to the parking lot of the Waban branch of the Newton Free Library, with the intention of locating 10 long-term parking spaces for employees of local businesses.