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*City Document—No. 10.*

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# REPORT

OF THE

## JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE

TO WHOM WAS REFERRED

### THE EXPEDIENCY

OF A

## SURVEY OF THE CITY.



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ROXBURY:  
PRINTED FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.  
1855.

City of Roxbury.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, MARCH 12, 1855.

ORDERED, That the Joint Special Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the Assessors' Department, be instructed to consider the propriety of causing a complete survey of the City, and each and every lot therein, for the purpose of aiding the Assessors in their duty.

Sent up for concurrence.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, MARCH 12, 1855.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

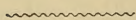
IN COMMON COUNCIL, APRIL 2, 1855.

Mr. Cushing, from the above named Committee, submitted the following Report and Order, which were read, ordered to be laid on the table and printed for the use of the Council.

JOSHUA SEAVER, *Clerk.*



# REPORT.



The Joint Special Committee, to whom was referred the Order relating to a survey of the City of Roxbury, have attended to the duty assigned them, and beg leave to submit the following

## REPORT.

To most, if not to all of the Committee, the project of surveying the entire City of Roxbury appeared at first to be one of such magnitude and expense, as to lead some of them, before they had been able to look into the matter, and obtain such information as was to be had, to view it as a project of doubtful expediency, if not an impracticable one. But your Committee have considered the matter fully and deliberately, and we are unanimously of the opinion that it is not only practicable, but every way desirable. They are convinced that a survey can be properly and correctly made, with ease, in a comparatively short space of time, and that the great advantages to be derived from such a plan will be such as to entirely overcome all objections to it, on account of the expense which may attend it. They believe that the interests of the City require and demand such a plan to be constructed. They look upon the present system or manner of determining the contents of the several lots of land, and rating the value thereof, (to say the least,) as a very objectionable one, a system against which very much can be said, while but little can be said in its favor.

Your Committee are of the opinion that if the Assessors could have the aid and help of a plan which should give them the number of square feet of each separate and distinct lot of land, together with the building or buildings thereon, it would diminish their labors, enable them to deal more justly and equitably with all concerned than it is possible for them now to do, give them a basis upon which to act, which will put to rest forever many of the now existing causes of complaint. It should be the desire of every citizen to pay his just and full share of the State, County and City Tax, and while very many are so disposed, there are others who are desirous of being relieved of the burden which they should justly bear. A measure which would lessen the chances of such to elude the just dooming of the Assessors, and at the same time secure to all a fair taxation, we believe would meet with the approval of your constituents.

While speaking of the present advantages to be derived from such a plan of the City, we would not forget to call to your minds the great value this map or plan would have, ten, fifteen or twenty years hence. This consideration, of itself, in the minds of your Committee, is no small or slight argument in favor of this survey.

Your Committee would recommend the construction of a set of plans on some convenient scale, and that the same be bound together in some convenient form, every lot to be carefully measured, and the number of square feet it contains computed and marked thereon, the lines of said lots to be laid down, as nearly as can be ascertained, without an elaborate research into the titles of the same, and to be determined either by plans which may be furnished by the owners, by plans recorded in the County Registry and City Clerk's office, or by the fences and enclosures of the several lots as they exist upon the ground. The plans should be neatly drawn and the lots appropriately numbered.

The streets, courts, lanes, &c., should be properly represented, as also the railroads, streams, ponds and other bodies of water. Accompanying this, a reduced plan should be made, showing the whole City on one plan, with all the main buildings of the City distinctly represented thereon.

Your Committee believe that all this can be done, and well done, before the assessment of taxes for the next year, 1856, and would unanimously recommend the adoption of the following Order.

For the Committee,

JAMES W. CUSHING.

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City of Roxbury.

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IN COMMON COUNCIL, APRIL 2, 1855.

ORDERED, That a Joint Special Committee be appointed to contract with one or more competent Surveyors to make a complete survey of the City of Roxbury.

The same to be done at an expense not to exceed Twelve hundred dollars, and to be completed within nine months from the execution of said contract.















