

CITY MANAGER'S CONSENT AGENDA FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

1. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$31,785,495 for the purpose of constructing an addition to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Cambridge Public Library.
2. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the acceptance of a gift of \$10,000 and appropriation of said gift to establish the Mayor John D. Lynch Scholarship Trust Fund.
3. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-91**, regarding a report on the timeline for choosing a contractor and undertaking the renovation at Magazine Beach.
4. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-129**, regarding a report Concord Avenue traffic calming.
5. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-50**, regarding a report on what changes in regulations and/or other measures are necessary for Cambridge to initiate a Section 9 pilot program.
6. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the transfer of \$73,499.58 in the Grant Fund from the Community Development Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Salary & Wages Account to comply with HUD requirements that salary and wages costs for two concurrent HUD grants be shared while both grants are active.
7. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation on the petition amending the Harvard Square Overlay District.
8. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation on the Moot, et al Petition extending the effective date of Section 11.500 (IPOP) at April 2, 2000.

9. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to a Planning Board recommendation on the Planning Board Petition regarding Lodging Houses in Residence C and C-1 districts.
10. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-50A**, regarding a report on a plan for financial and other types of collaborative support to Training Innovations, Inc.
11. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-132**, regarding a report on unlocking the tennis courts at CRLS for use by the public.
12. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-132**, regarding a report on unlocking the tennis courts at CRLS for use by the public.
13. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-115**, regarding a report on a review of the policies and procedures regarding the demarcation of utilities in certain sensitive areas during major capital projects.
14. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-69**, regarding a report on pedestrian and vehicle safety at the Fresh Pond Shopping Center.
15. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-123**, regarding a report on the status of wheelchair accessibility at all polling places.
16. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of Cambridge Police Officers assigned to the Traffic/Truck Enforcement Division as Public Weighers to operate portable truck scales Citywide for 2001.
17. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the Final Neighborhood Conservation District Study Report for the Marsh Neighborhood.

18. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the Final Study Report for the Harvard Square Neighborhood Conservation District.
19. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the appropriation of \$25,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance Account for a rental assistance.
20. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to an order requesting the transfer of \$48,000 from the General Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Salary & Wages Account for the funding of two Agenda for Children Coordinator positions.
21. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative **Awaiting Report Item Number 00-47**, regarding a report on recommendations to preserve trees and prevent conflict.
22. Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to the appointment of the following person as a Constable for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2001:

With Power
Taylor F. Massie, Jr.
35 Harvey Street, #6
Cambridge, MA 02140

CITY MANAGER LETTER

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-50, regarding a report on what changes in regulations and/or other measures are necessary for Cambridge to initiate a Section 8 pilot program, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,
Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager

for Community Development

Date: December 13, 2000

Re: Council Order #43 dated July 31, 2000: Report on what changes in regulations and/or other measures are necessary for Cambridge to initiate a Section 8 pilot program.

In response to the above referenced order on the Section 8 Program and homeownership, we report the following:

Program Overview

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) administers the Section 8 program. The program is designed to provide low-income renters (households below 50% of the area median income) with a rental subsidy that is paid directly to their landlord.

In September 2000, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched a new program that permits eligible households to apply a Section 8 subsidy toward a mortgage payment and other related housing costs. The Section 8 subsidy equals the difference between 30% of the household's income and the current Fair Market Rent as established by HUD for different regions of the country. The Section 8 homeownership subsidy would remain in place for 10 years.

The program increases the ability of low-income households to become homeowners. Other criteria for homeownership include the ability to obtain a bank mortgage, savings for down payment and closing costs, good credit, and minimal debt.

Challenges Related to Implementing a Section 8 Homeownership Program

High Housing Costs in Cambridge: Due to high property costs in Cambridge, there is a tremendous gap between what a household with a Section 8 subsidy could afford and the cost of a unit. The following example highlights the gap for a household that requires a two-bedroom unit.

The current Fair Market Rent in Cambridge for a two-bedroom unit is \$1,130 (this is the maximum subsidy that the CHA is authorized by HUD to pay). A household with a Section 8 voucher is eligible for the difference between 30% of their income (e.g., \$818 for a family of 4 at 50% of area median income) and the Fair Market Rent of \$1,130.

Based on a monthly housing allowance of \$1,130, the maximum mortgage for which a household would qualify is approximately \$105,000. With the median cost of a two-bedroom condominium in Cambridge exceeding \$252,000, the cost of housing for most low-income households is out of reach in Cambridge.

In addition to the high cost of housing in Cambridge, there are two fundamental considerations that may affect the feasibility of the program and long-term success of low-income homebuyers.

"Sunset Provisions" on CHA Resources: Under the provisions of the Section 8 Homeownership program, the subsidy to households terminates in approximately 10 years. This is based on HUD's assumption that the need for subsidy will decrease as a household's income rises. This presents a fundamental problem for households regarding their ability to sustain mortgage payments once the subsidy ends.

Underwriting Issues and Increased Risk of Mortgage Default: Typically banks make mortgage loans for 30 years at a fixed rate. A household's mortgage application is evaluated based on an analysis of the household's ability to make payments for the duration of the loan. Therefore, a low-income household is unlikely to be eligible for a bank mortgage since the Section 8 subsidy will terminate in approximately 10 years.

Next Steps

Community Development Housing staff and the CHA will continue to explore opportunities to implement a Section 8 Homeownership program in Cambridge. Currently, we are collaborating with the Citizen's Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) to identify ways that the rules and regulations could be modified and to develop strategies for addressing implementation challenges that communities throughout the state are facing. Possible changes include:

- expanding the subsidy term beyond 10 years,
- developing special programs with lenders to serve households with Section 8 homeownership subsidies, and
- increasing the subsidy available to households in high-cost areas.

We would like to continue this discussion with the Housing Committee as we explore strategies for implementing this program in Cambridge.

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-123, regarding a report on the status of wheelchair accessibility at all polling places, received from the Board of Election Commissioners.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-121, regarding a report on how to help increase opportunities to showcase the artists of Cambridge, received from Executive Director of the Cambridge Arts Council Pallas Lombardi.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-91, regarding a report on the timeline for choosing a contractor and undertaking the renovations at Magazine Beach, Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi reports the following:

The MDC has recently selected Wallace Floyd Associates as the designer for the Magazine Beach Park. Contract negotiations should be completed and a contract finalized in early January, 2001. At that time, a notice to proceed will be issued by the MDC to Wallace Floyd.

The proposed project calls for an eleven (11) month design process and a total of twenty-one months for design, bidding, and construction. If the schedule remains as is, it is anticipated that the construction bid process will be finalized in December, 2001 with construction to begin early in 2002.

The current schedule calls for community meetings during the design phase and for working meetings with City staff.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

RECOMMENDATION:

That pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 53A, the City Council accepts a gift of \$10,000 and appropriate said gift to establish the Mayor John D. Lynch Scholarship Trust Fund.

SUMMARY:

John D. Lynch served as Mayor of the City of Cambridge from 1936 to 1938 and again from 1946 to 1948. An out-of-state relative of the late Mayor Lynch has anonymously donated an initial gift of \$10,000 to honor him by establishing a scholarship trust fund in his name. A second gift of \$10,000 has also been promised to the City from the same relative bringing the current amount to \$20,000. The earnings of the trust shall be granted as scholarships to deserving graduates of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School who choose to pursue post-secondary education.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-115, regarding a report on a review of the policies and procedures regarding the demarcation of utilities in certain sensitive areas during major capital projects, please be advised of the following:

There is a legal requirement for all construction excavations that all utilities be notified through the Dig Safe process to ensure that all utilities are properly identified and marked prior to the beginning of any excavation. The Public Works Department does not release an excavation permit without proof that this process has been completed and Dig Safe numbers have been issued.

I am attaching a copy of the Dig Safe description and procedures for your information.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am hereby requesting a transfer of \$ 73,499.58 in the Grant Fund from the Community Development Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Salary and Wages Account. This transfer is necessary to comply with HUD requirements that salary and wages costs for two concurrent HUD grants be shared while both grants are active. This transfer will enable shared salary and wages costs for the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control HUD Grants for Round 4 and Round 7.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached for your consideration a Planning Board recommendation on the petition amending the Harvard Square Overlay District.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Subject: Petition Amending the Harvard Square Overlay District.

Recommendation The Planning Board recommends adoption of the Petition with minor changes to make more explicit the FAR values that will apply within portions of the Harvard Square Overlay District should a conservation district be adopted. The amended zoning language is attached.

Comments

The Planning Board supports the adoption of the Harvard Square Conservation District and the companion zoning changes in the existing Harvard Square Overlay District.

With the introduction of the Harvard Square Conservation District Commission into the regulatory environment in Harvard Square, the Planning Board would like to note the valuable service the Harvard Square Advisory Committee has provided to the Planning Board in its fourteen years it has been in existence. The Planning Board encourages the new Conservation District Commission to make equally profitable use of the Advisory Committee's advice.

One Board member believes that the existing roles of the Harvard Square Advisory Committee and the Planning Board will unnecessarily duplicate the functions of a new Harvard Square

Conservation District Commission and therefore does not support the adoption of the zoning changes currently proposed.

Respectfully submitted for the Planning Board,

Larissa Brown, Chair

Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance Affecting the Harvard Square Overlay District - Section 11.50

As Recommended by the Planning Board

(Recommended changes from the filed Petition language are noted in the *larger type*; deletions are indicated thus: ~~deletion~~)

Amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge by making the following changes to Section 11.50 - Harvard Square Overlay District

A. Delete the existing line that reads "Section 11.50 - Harvard Square Overlay District" and substitute therefore the line "Section 11.50 - Harvard Square Overlay District and Harvard Square Historic Overlay District".

B. Delete Section 11.51 and substitute therefor the following:

11.51 *Establishment and Scope.* There is hereby established the Harvard Square Overlay District and the Harvard Square Historic Overlay District which shall be governed by the regulations and procedures specified in this Section 11.50. It is the intent of this section that these regulations shall apply to an area described generally as the Harvard Square business district and certain abutting portions of the neighborhoods around it.

C. Create a new Section 11.51.1 to read as follows:

11.51.1 The Harvard Square Overlay District shall be that overlay district established on the Zoning Map of the City of Cambridge by Section 3.20. The Harvard Square Historic Overlay District shall be that portion of the Harvard Square Overlay District that is encompassed by any historic district duly established by the City Council under the authority granted to the City of Cambridge by Chapter 40C of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any Neighborhood Conservation District established by the City Council under the provisions of Chapter 2.78 of the Cambridge Municipal Code. All provisions of the Harvard Square Overlay District and all references to it in this Ordinance shall apply equally to the Harvard Square Historic Overlay District except as set forth below.

D. Delete Section 11.52 in its entirety and substitute therefore the following:

11.52 General Purpose. It is the purpose of this Section 11.50 to augment existing zoning regulations to respond to the unique problems and pressures for change particular to the Harvard Square Area. The regulations contained in said section provide for more careful public scrutiny of development proposals that may alter the established urban form of the Harvard Square Area. These regulations are intended to channel the extreme development pressures in ways which will preserve and enhance the unique functional environment and visual character of t Harvard Square; to mitigate the functional impacts of new development on adjacent residential neighborhoods; to maintain the present diversity of development and open space patterns and building scales and ages; to protect and enhance the historic resources of the Harvard Square area; and to provide sufficient regulatory flexibility to advance the general purposes of this Section 11.52. The additional flexibility granted to development within the Harvard Square Historic Overlay District is intended to facilitate the protection and enhancement of the historic resources and character of Harvard Square while not unreasonably limiting the opportunities for appropriate contemporary changes to the built environment in the Harvard Square area.

E. In Section 11.53.2, delete the phrase "*Harvard Square Development Guidelines, Community Development Department, July 1, 1986*" and substitute therefore the phrase "*Guidelines for Development and Historic Preservation as contained in the Final Report of the Harvard Square Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee, dated - -----, 2000*".

F. In Section 11.54.1 (4) (a), delete Subparagraph 1 in its entirety and substitute therefor the following and add a new subparagraph 8 to read as follows:

11.54.1 (4) (a) *Membership*

1. At least one member having recognized qualifications as an architect or landscape architect.
8. One member representing the Cambridge Historical Commission.

G. Add a new Section 11.54.6 to read as follows:

11.54.6 *Maximum Ratio of Floor Area to Lot Area (FAR) in the Harvard Square **Historic Overlay District.***

Notwithstanding the FAR limits set forth in Article 5.000 or elsewhere in this Ordinance, the maximum FAR applicable in the Harvard Square **Historic** Overlay District shall be as follows: Business B district: 4.0 **for all uses except dwellings, 3.0 for dwellings**; Office 3 district: 3.0 **for all uses**; Office 2 district: 2.0 **for all uses**; Residence C-3 district: 3.0 **for all uses**; Residence C-2B district: 1.75 **for all uses** ; Residence C-1 district: 0.75 **for all uses**; Business A district: 1.0 **for all uses except dwellings**, 1.75 for dwellings. ~~This Section 11.54.6 shall be in effect through (sunset date) inclusive.~~

H. Add a new Section 11.57 to read as follows

11.57 *Sign Regulations in the Harvard Square Historic Overlay District*

All provisions of Article 7.000 shall apply in the Harvard Square Historic Overlay District, except as modified below. It is the intent of these modifications to allow greater flexibility in the size, location and illumination of signs in order to encourage more thoughtful design of individual signs, to encourage greater respect for the building and visual context within which new signs are erected, and thereby add interest and character to the shopping environment in Harvard Square.

1. In Section 7.16.22 - Signs in all Business, Office and Industrial Districts, Paragraphs A, B, and C shall not apply in office and business base districts. However, no sign on the outside of a building may extend higher than 20 feet above grade.
1. Section 7.16.3 - Application of the Sign Frontage Formula, shall not apply.
2. In the Residence C-2B base district the provisions of Section 7.16.22 shall apply to permitted or legally established non-conforming office and retail uses.

~~This Section 11.57 shall be in effect in effect through (sunset date) inclusive.~~

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached for your consideration, a Planning Board recommendation on the Planning Board Petition regarding Lodging Houses in Residence C and C-1 districts. This is also a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-131.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Subject: Planning Board Petition Re: Lodging Houses in Residence C and C-1 Districts.

Recommendation The Planning Board recommends adoption of the petition.

The petition would restore text in the Zoning Ordinance inadvertently deleted when the relevant footnote in the Table of Uses was modified to accommodate further regulation of hotels and motels in residential districts.

Lodging Houses have been prohibited in Residence C-1 districts since 1977 (Residence C was added when that district was created in 1987) and the Footnote 7 that establishes that prohibition still appears adjacent to the Lodging House use category in the Table of Use Regulations. When revised in 1997, the text of Footnote 7 deleted any reference to Lodging House use. The petition would restore the appropriate reference but would not alter the status of Lodging Houses because their prohibition has continued to be enforced by the Inspectional Services Department.

Respectfully submitted for the Planning Board,

Larissa Brown, Chair

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a Planning Board recommendation on the Moot, et al Petition extending the effective date of Section 11.500 (IPOP) to April 2, 2000.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Subject: Moot, et al Petition extending the effective date of Section 11.500 (IPOP) to April 2, 2000.

Recommendation. The Planning Board recommends adoption of the petition only in the event that the Project Review provisions of the Citywide Rezoning Petition are not adopted by the City Council.

The Planning Board strongly supports the creation of a permanent procedure, applicable citywide, for review of major developments having significant traffic or environmental impacts on the city and its neighborhoods. The IPOP has served that function on an interim basis and many important lessons have been learned through its administration over the past two years. The knowledge gained from that experience has been incorporated into the Citywide Rezoning Petition's Project Review proposal (Article 19.000, Part III of the Petition) and the Planning Board strongly urges the Council to adopt it as a permanent measure in preference to any limited extension of the current IPOP.

The Citywide Rezoning Petition's Project Review proposal is a significant advancement over the provisions of the temporary IPOP. First, major features of the interim measure are carried forward and would be made permanent:

- *Most importantly, developments identified as having major traffic impacts on the city are required to secure a special permit from the Planning Board after extensive public review of the proposal, and

- *Criteria developed by the Planning Board to measure significant negative traffic impact have been incorporated explicitly into the Project Review zoning text.

Second, refinements have been made which improve the efficacy of the process for both the city and affected property owners. These refinements expand the scope of public review and target it more precisely to those developments that have measurable impact on the community. Among the refinements:

- * The unitary 50,000 square foot threshold for special permit review is replaced with thresholds directly related to the scale of traffic impact of individual uses. For example, dormitories with little impact have a very high threshold while retail stores that generate many car trips will have a much lower threshold.

- * The environmental and urban design impacts of new construction are given enhanced importance. Building and site development requirements are established and applied to developments as small as 25,000 square feet. Urban design objectives are fully articulated and established as criteria for issuance of a project review special permit.

Should it not be possible for the City Council to act favorably on a permanent project review procedure, enactment of a limited, third extension of the expired IPOP would provide an additional six weeks in which to fashion an acceptable permanent measure.

Respectfully submitted for the Planning Board,

Larissa Brown, Chair

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-69, regarding a report on pedestrian and vehicle safety at the Fresh Pond Shopping Center, received from Traffic, Parking and Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby transmitting notification of the appointment of the following Cambridge Police Officers assigned to the Traffic/Truck Enforcement Division as Public Weighers to operating portable truck scales Citywide for 2001:

William Arthur, Jr.

John Alberts

Paul Timmons

David Szeto

Brandon Woolkalis

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-129, regarding a report on Concord Avenue traffic calming, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger and Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director

Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department

Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager for

Community Development

DATE: December 11, 2000

RE: Council Order #15, dated 11/20/00: Concord Avenue Traffic Calming

In response to the above referenced order regarding the timeline for implementing traffic calming on Concord Avenue in the Armory area, we report the following:

Traffic Calming Background

Over the last several years, city staff have worked with residents to develop a traffic calming plan for Concord Avenue between the Sozio Rotary and Fayerweather Street. This plan was

developed to address residents' concerns about vehicle speeds and pedestrian safety on Concord Avenue.

The design for Concord Avenue includes crossing islands (see drawing below) at Fern and Fayerweather streets.

Crossing islands will

- Slow the speed of vehicles on Concord Avenue.
- Make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street.
- Allow pedestrians to cross one direction of traffic at a time.

Typical Crossing Island

Traffic Calming Construction Schedule

The last discussion with the community regarding Concord Avenue assumed that the traffic calming would be constructed in conjunction with planned sewer work in the area. The schedule for the planned sewer work is several years away and is not consistent with residents' desires to implement traffic calming quickly. Therefore, the Concord Avenue traffic calming work will be constructed independent of the sewer work in the summer of 2001. The actual construction required to install the crossing islands is limited in size and scope. There is minimal drainage work required and the construction is physically limited to the intersections.

Further, in July of 1997, a traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Concord Avenue and Alpine Street in response to residents' concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing Concord Avenue at this location. The Fresh Pond Parkway sewer and roadway project is currently under construction and will make additional pedestrian improvements on Concord Avenue.

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-132, regarding a report on unlocking the tennis courts at CRLS for use by the public, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold reports the following:

At the specific request of the Cambridge School Department, the tennis courts at CRLS High School have been locked for a number of years for security reasons and to protect the court surface from unauthorized use. As a result of recent consultation with the CRLS security staff, School Department administration and the Cambridge Fire Department, it has been recommended that the lock be removed from the court gates. Priority for use will continue to be given to CRLS athletic and physical education programs and Recreation Division tennis classes. When unscheduled by either the School or Recreation Departments, the courts will be available to Cambridge residents on a first come basis.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-128, regarding a report on violations of the Responsible Employer Ordinance by Revoli Construction, received from Purchasing Agent Andrea Spears.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby requesting the appropriation and authorization to borrow \$31,785,495 for the purpose of constructing a addition to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Cambridge Public Library.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

attachment

December 18, 2000

ORDERED: That \$31,785,495 is appropriated for the purpose of constructing an addition to and remodeling, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the Cambridge Public Library, including original equipment and landscaping, paving and other site improvements incidental or directly related thereto, temporary relocation costs and acquiring land for open space purposes as required by City ordinance as an offset to the land to be used for the library addition, that of the amount appropriated by this order, \$1,250,000 shall be used for the acquisition of land for open space purposes; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the

approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow \$31,785,495 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. c.44; and that the City Manager is authorized to take all other action necessary to carry out the project.

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached the Final Study Report for the Harvard Square Neighborhood Conservation District. The Cambridge Historical Commission unanimously voted on November 29 to accept the report and to forward it for designation of the district by the City Council.

This is the work of the study committee that was appointed in September at the request of the City Council that the Committee consider a neighborhood conservation district version of the earlier historic district proposal. The Historical Commission has held the required public hearing and recommends the adoption of:

- A. Order enacting the Harvard Square Conservation District,
- B. Amendments to Chapter 2.78, Article III of the Municipal Code, and
- C. Amendments to the Harvard Square Overlay District.

The Historical Commission continues to discuss aspects of these proposals with interested members of the community and may have further recommendations at the time that these measures are considered by the City Council.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Attachment

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached the Final Neighborhood Conservation District Study Report for the Marsh neighborhood with the unanimous recommendation of the Cambridge Historical Commission that it be designated by City Council order. At a public hearing held on November 16, 2000, the Historical Commission voted 7-0 to recommend the district to the Council for designation. Neighborhood conservation districts are designated by City Council order as per Chapter 2.78.180 F. of the Cambridge City Code. The proposed order for designation is attached to the Final Study Report.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby requesting the transfer of \$48,000 from the General Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance Account to the Salary & Wages Account for the funding of two Agenda for Children Coordinator positions. The funds were appropriated into professional and technical services prior to the decision to bring staff on as employees of the City.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby requesting the appropriation of \$25,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Human Services Other Ordinary Maintenance Account for a rental assistance as per the attached documentation.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

December 18, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am hereby transmitting notification of the reappointment of the following persons as a Constable for a term of three years, effective the first day of January, 2001:

Taylor F. Massie, Jr. With Power

35 Harvey Street, #6

Cambridge, MA 02140

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/mec

Decem
ber 18,
2000

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In Response to Awaiting Report #00-47 regarding a report on recommendations to preserve trees and prevent conflict, please be advised that over the past several months, a Tree Protection Task Force has been meeting to develop recommendations to preserve and protect trees. Two main goals have been established:

Establish and maintain maximum tree cover.

This goal acknowledges that the urban forest serves a wide variety of functions that promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents. These functions include:

- conserving energy, by providing shade and evaporative cooling;
- improving local and global air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, adsorbing particulate matter, and producing oxygen;
- reducing wind speed and directing air flow;
- reducing noise pollution;
- providing habitat for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife;
- reducing storm runoff and the potential for soil erosion;
- increasing real property values;
- enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses and serve as a source of community image and pride.

Prevent loss of highly valued, significant trees

The Task Force is discussing both regulatory and educational measures to achieve these goals. Measures include: (1) improved education on tree care and maintenance; (2) a Tree Ordinance to protect existing trees and/or develop appropriate mitigation measures in connection with large development projects; and (3) protection of unique, historically significant trees through the landmarking process, as administered through the Cambridge Historical Commission. The Tree Protect Task Force is continuing to meet and fully develop each of these proposals

It is anticipated that a draft Tree Ordinance will be forwarded to the City Council for its review early next year.

Very
truly
yours,

Robert
W.
Healy

MASSACHUSETTS

**City Council Calendar No. 18
MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2000**

At 5:30 P.M.

ON THE TABLE

1. Consent Agenda #14 of 9/11/2000, relative to the Final Study Report for designating the Park House Hotel, 1-5 Cedar Square/39 Cedar Street/1-3 McLean Place, as a protected landmark.
2. Consent Agenda #17, relative to a Preservation Easement for 2 Holyoke Place (Fly Club).
3. Order submitted by Councillor Davis to draft new rezoning proposal for Riverside Neighborhood adjacent to Western Avenue.
4. Landmark Designation Study Report for Shady Hill Square, 1-11 Shady Hill Square and 36 Holden Street.
5. An order introduced by Councillor Reeves regarding an allocation for a planning study for Riverside.
6. Committee Report from Vice Mayor David Maher and Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Co-Chairs of the Ordinance Committee for a meeting held on October 18, 2000 regarding the continuing discussion about a proposed ordinance to provide additional protection for tenants in buildings being converted to condominiums.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Relative to considering an amendment to the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge entitled "Historical Buildings and Landmarks" by inserting a subsection at the end of Section 2.78.050. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after December 20, 1999.

8. Proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to enable creation of a neighborhood preservation district in Harvard Square. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after November 6, 2000. **The deadline for this petition is January 2, 2001.**
9. Proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances in the Alewife area. The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after November 6, 2000. **The deadline for this petition is January 2, 2001.**
10. Appropriation and authorization to borrow \$3,500,000 to fund the completion of the Fresh Pond Water Purification Plant. **The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after December 11, 2000.**
11. Proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to amend the zoning relating to lodging houses in Residence C and C-1 districts. **The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after December 18, 2000.**
12. Proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to extend the Interim Parking Overlay Permit (IPOP) provision. **The question comes on passing to be ordained on or after December 18, 2000.**

APPLICATIONS AND PETITIONS FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

1. An application was received from Cambridge Bicycle, requesting permission to display four portable bike racks each holding 4-8 bikes and one portable door ramp in front of the premises numbered 259 Massachusetts Avenue.
2. An application was received from Lillian Pepe requesting a curb cut at the premises numbered 222-224 Concord Avenue; said petition has received approval from Inspectional Services, Historical Commission, Public Works and Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department; one abutter approval and three abutter disapprovals. Five neighborhood association letters sent; two approvals received.

CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS - CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

1. A communication was received from Joseph E. Connarton, Executive Director of Massachusetts Public Employee Administration Commission, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2002 Appropriation.
2. A communication was received from the Mindy S. Lubber, Regional Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting information on a law passed by the city of Boston banning the sale of mercury fever thermometers in stores.
3. A communication was received from Ellen Shachter, Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, transmitting a proposed amended version of the proposed Condominium Conversion Ordinance.
4. A communication was received from Anthony D. Previte, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 245-263 Monsignor O'Brien Highway and 262 Monsignor O'Brien Highway.
5. A communication was received from John Knopf, Ph.D., Vice President of Genetics Institute, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 87 CambridgePark Drive, 200 CambridgePark Drive, 85 Bolton Street and 95 Bolton Street.
6. A communication was received from Alan Eckel, Eckel Industries, Inc., transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 155 Fawcett Street.
7. A communication was received from Jeffrey Seifert, Cambridge Family YMCA, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 820 Massachusetts Avenue.
8. A communication was received from Joseph F. Tulimieri, Executive Director, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of:
 - o 247 Main Street
 - o 174 Binney Street

- 160 Sixth Street
- 349 Potter Street
- 20 Potter Street
- Sixth Street
- 322 Binney Street
- 346 Binney Street
- 16 Broadway
- 108 Broadway
- 97 Broadway
- Fulkerson & Western Connector.

9. A communication was received from Jay R. Schochet, General Partner Cambridge I Associates, Inc., transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 1 Alewife Place.
10. A communication was received from Thomas J. Bucknum, Clerk, Biogen Realty Corporation, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 12 Cambridge Center.
11. A communication was received from Douglas M. Cohen, Trustee, Bent Associates, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of:
 - 65 Bent Street
 - 121 First Street
 - 29 Charles Street
 - 159 First Street.
12. A communication was received from Varney J. Hintlian, Member, 134 Cambridge Street, LLC, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 21-29 Otis Street.
13. A communication was received from Varney J. Hintlian, Authorized Representative, Sultana Realty Trust, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 18-28 Second Street.
14. A communication was received from Mitchell B. Muroff, Esq., Sage Hotel Corporation, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of 767

Memorial Drive.

15. A communication was received from Charles Christopher, Christopher's, transmitting written opposition to the Citywide Rezoning Petition as owner of **1920 Massachusetts Avenue**.
16. A communication was received from Ana Couto, transmitting thanks for the resolution adopted by the City on behalf of her mother.
17. A communication was received from Mary Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy transmitting notice of a public hearing on January 16, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. on revising utility billing and termination procedures to expand the category of persons eligible for protection from utility service termination due to financial hardship.
18. A communication was received from Lenore Monello Scholming, President, Small Property Owners Association, transmitting concern regarding the amended Condo Conversion Ordinance.

RESOLUTION LIST FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

1. Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Council on Aging.
Mayor Galluccio
2. Resolution on the death of Anna Halse.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
3. Resolution on the death of Evelyn L. Phetteplace.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
4. Resolution on the death of Mary V. Wilson.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership

5. Resolution on the death of Carmelia M. Vicente.
**Councillor Toomey, Vice Mayor Maher,
Councillor Sullivan, Mayor Galluccio and entire membership**
6. Encourage Cambridge residents to use local retail stores while doing holiday shopping.
Councillor Decker
7. Appreciation to the owners of the CambridgeSide Galleria Parking Garage on behalf of East Cambridge residents.
Councillor Toomey
8. Congratulations to Lorraine Logiudice on her retirement from the School Department.
Councillor Toomey and entire membership
9. Resolution on the death of Salvatore J. Arico.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
10. Resolution on the death of Frances R. McMahon.
Mayor Galluccio, Vice Mayor Maher, Councillor Sullivan and entire membership
11. Happy 70th Birthday to Jennie Carvello.
Councillor Toomey and entire membership
12. Congratulations to Vicki L. Sato on her new position as President of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Councillor Sullivan
13. Resolution on the death of Donald W. Milligan.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
14. Resolution on the death of Helen Korecki.
Councillor Toomey and entire membership
15. Resolution on the death of Rosina M. Vazza.
Councillor Sullivan and entire membership

16. Resolution on the death of Sister Mary St. Anne Mehigan, S.N.D.
Councillor Sullivan and entire membership
17. Resolution on the death of Angelina Tammaro.
Councillor Sullivan and entire membership
18. Third Annual Cambridge Fire Department Medal Day on January 13, 2001.
Mayor Galluccio
19. Thanks to Siobhan Smith for her help during her internship in the Mayor's Office.
Mayor Galluccio
20. Congratulations to Win Poor on being the recipient of the 2000 MIT President's Award for Community Service.
Mayor Galluccio
21. Congratulations to Fr. John Canavan who was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Church.
Councillor Sullivan
22. Congratulations to Sergeant Cheryl N. Vossmer on being the recipient of the 2000 MIT President's Award for Community Service.
Mayor Galluccio
23. Resolution on the death of Timothy J. Lane.
Councillor Toomey, Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
24. Resolution on the death of Thomas P. Cassidy.
Mayor Galluccio and entire membership
25. Congratulations to Jinny Nathans upon her election as President of the Harvard Square Defense Fund.
Councillor Born

26. Best wishes for a joyous and meaningful holiday season to all Cantabrigians.
Councillor Reeves

**CONSENT ORDER LIST FOR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2000**

1. Repair street lights and increase foot patrols and police patrols at Magazine, Hamilton and Prince Streets.
Councillor Sullivan
2. Repair and pave Aberdeen Avenue.
Councillor Sullivan
3. Proposed amendment to the Responsible Employer section of the Cambridge Employment Plan.
Councillors Sullivan, Decker and Toomey
4. Why Harvard Cooperative will not honor WIC vouchers.
Councillor Born
5. Putnam Avenue residents? concern for removal of barbed wire from Blackstone Street/Putnam Avenue steam-generating plant.
Mayor Galluccio and Councillor Sullivan
6. Compliance of Middlesex Superior Court order that the Fawcett Oil Company could not use Cottage Park Avenue as a means of access for commercial vehicles.
Vice Mayor Maher
7. Traffic study of Essex Street.
Councillor Decker
8. Report on police response to residents of 2 Mt. Auburn Street calling about the loud noise (music) emanating from the Flag/Banks Street area on the day of the Harvard-Yale Game.
Councillor Reeves

9. Facades improving the streetscape in Central Square from Sidney Street to Hancock Street and Bishop Allen Drive from Main Street to Inman Street.

Councillor Reeves

10. Funding for the renovation of the War Memorial and whether it is tied to funding to building the new main library.

Councillor Davis

11. Permits for a new main public library.

Councillor Davis

12. Progress of plans for open space at North Point.

Councillor Born

13. Alternative coverage when First Security ends its coverage in Cambridge.

Councillor Reeves

14. New location of bus stops on Massachusetts Avenue, Barron Plaza and Garden Street.

Councillor Reeves

15. Disappointment of the Cambridge Veterans' Organization at the lack of coverage by the Cambridge Cable TV of veteran events.

Councillor Reeves

POLICY ORDERS

O-1.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

RESOLVED: That the conference room located at 831 Massachusetts Avenue be named the "CARMELIA VICENTE ROOM;" and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Assistant to the City Council make the necessary arrangements for said dedication.

*

O-2.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

VICE MAYOR MAHER

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

MAYOR GALLUCCIO

WHEREAS: The renovation of the War Memorial facility has been previously reviewed and recommended by the City Manager and architectural services have been contracted and a community process has begun; and

WHEREAS: The City Manager has estimated that for the library project, 18 to 24 months will be necessary for design work and public hearings before construction can begin; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to prepare a bond authorization for renovations to the War Memorial facility for a City Council vote and to resume design work and related public meetings on the War Memorial project.

O-3.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR DECKER

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to assess the capital needs and the maintenance of all the branch libraries and transmit this information to the City Council.

*

O-4.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR DECKER

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop a plan for renovating the Central Square Branch library.

*

O-5.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: The Cambridge community has clearly expressed its desire for a good and strong public library for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS: The library does not function well without the work of excellent highly-trained librarians and staff; and

WHEREAS: The city of Cambridge struggles to maintain staff and compete with other local cities on recruitment for the most qualified personnel; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on the salaries of librarians and staff in comparative cities in the Commonwealth; said report include how does Cambridge compare with the comparable cities.

O-6.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BRAUDE

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on how residents are appointed to neighborhood planning committees; and be it further

ORDERED: That the report include, but not be limited to, the following information:

<

- How is the pool of potential committee members established?
- Are applications solicited, and if so, from what sources?
- What criteria are used for selection?
- What is the role of neighborhood associations in the selection of resident committee members?
Are such associations invited to send representatives, individually invited, or otherwise included in the selection process?
- Are the meetings open to the public and what kind of notice of the meetings do residents and neighborhood associations receive?

O-7.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BRAUDE

WHEREAS: No one, including Nostradamus, Columbo, Einstein, Perry Mason, or a certain city councillor, could figure out whether schools were open or closed on a snowy day in Cambridge; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with the School Superintendent to ensure the creation of the earliest and most comprehensive network for public notification including, but not limited to, the city's web site, cable station, and a separate snow hot line number listed in the blue pages of the phone book; and be it further

ORDERED: That on days where the snow is on the ground, such notification shall be given even when schools are OPEN.

*

O-8

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: In the year 2000 the so-called "turnkey apartment complexes" celebrated their 25th anniversary; and

WHEREAS: The turnkey apartment complexes consist of the Miller's River apartments in East Cambridge, the L.B. Johnson apartments in Cambridgeport and the Daniel F. Burns apartments in North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: All of these apartment complexes were given to the City a result of the extraordinary generosity of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); and

WHEREAS: These three apartment complexes stand as a monument to the long lasting partnership between MIT and the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: In the last 25 years thousands of elderly and disabled Cambridge residents have been able to remain in their home city because of the many units of housing that these three apartment complexes provide; and

WHEREAS: Allowing the most vulnerable of our residents to remain in their hometown has contributed greatly to the stability of Cambridge neighborhoods and has given countless Cambridge families the opportunity to keep multiple generations in close contact; and

WHEREAS: All three of these complexes have been utilized to their maximum capacity for the vast majority of their existence; and

WHEREAS: Twenty-five years of constant use has taken its toll on these three important apartment complexes; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Council express its appreciation for the extraordinarily generous gift that MIT presented to this City, and especially the residents of each these complexes 25 years ago; and be it further

ORDERED: That City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact the Assistant City Manager for Human Services and the Cambridge Housing Authority with a view in mind to organize a 25th anniversary celebration honoring MIT and the residents of these complexes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this Council extend an invitation to MIT to offer a millennial gift to the City and to reaffirm the commitment it made to the residents of Cambridge 25 years ago by undertaking a major rehabilitation of the three turnkey apartment complexes.

*

O-9.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: City Council meetings have been cablecast live on Cambridge Municipal Television for over a decade; and

WHEREAS: In the last several years satellite television systems have become a very popular alternative to Cable, and such systems do not provide access to municipal television stations; and

WHEREAS: There is a large population of Cambridge residents who must be away from home for extended periods of time due to business or to attend college and have no way to watch the City Council meetings on the municipal television cablecasts; and

WHEREAS: Many Cambridge residents do not have access to Cambridge Municipal Television, but do have access to the Internet; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge municipal website is very informative and widely used by both residents and non-residents; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge is currently in the process of increasing the types of services it provides via the Internet; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the City's Webmaster to study the feasibility of broadcasting City Council meetings and other major municipal events over the Cambridge Municipal Website through streaming video; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the Council with the results of said study.

O-10.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to address the pedestrian safety issues at the corner of Willard Street and Mount Auburn Street as described in the attached letter.

*

O-11.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to follow-up on an earlier Council order requesting organizational models for a permanent Open Space Committee per the recommendation of the Green Ribbon Report; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the Council about the possibility of Home Rule legislation to set up a permanent Open Space Fund, modeled upon the Affordable Housing Trust, for the purpose of receiving and distributing money for the purchase and improvement of Open Space, including information about what other cities have established such funds through home rule legislation, and information about state legislation currently being introduced through the Massachusetts Municipal Association which will enable cities to set up such funds as a local option.

O-12.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: A recent report comprising an update on the pilot after-school program at Harrington School has been circulated to the School Committee; and

WHEREAS: The City, through its Human Services Department, is a partner in this program; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to arrange for a copy of this report to be made available to the City Council; and be it further

ORDERED: That upon adoption this order, the order and the report be referred to the Human Services Committee

O-13.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Chief Public Health Officer to report to the City Council on the status of the Men of Color Task Force and whether or not an executive director is to be hired.

O-14.

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS: During the discussion regarding library siting, there seemed to be the impression that an innovative, state of the art library program could only be achieved at one site; and

WHEREAS: There are many examples of innovative programming in all sorts of different sites, for example, the Centre Georges Pompidou/Bauberg Centre in Paris represents a truly innovative project; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to include in the library programming efforts, persons who can assure that the expanded Broadway library will be as innovative and state of the art as possible.

Committee Reports List

HUMAN SERVICES In City Council December 18, 2000
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker
Vice Mayor David P. Maher*

The Human Services Committee held a public hearing on October 28, 2000, beginning at 1:30 P.M. in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of receiving a presentation on current Cambridge demographics.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Marjorie C. Decker, Vice Mayor David Maher and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Marta Rosa, Executive Director of the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC), Cliff Cook, Planning Information Manager, Community Development Department (CDD), Jacqueline Neel, Director of Child Care, Department of Human Services (DHS), Stephanie Ackert, Planning Director, DHS, Bob Richards, former CRLS administrator and teacher, and Alice Turkel, School Committee Member.

Councillor Reeves convened the hearing and explained the purpose. He requested that Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, begin the presentation. Ms. Herold provided an overview of the demographic material to be presented and submitted written information on demographics tracked by DHS. She then introduced Marta Rosa, Executive Director of CCRC, to make a presentation on current information and data regarding child care in Cambridge. A copy of the information presented by Ms. Herold and Ms. Rosa is attached to the report (**Attachment A**).

Ms. Rosa then summarized the most pressing current issues relating to child care in Cambridge:

- The childcare workforce shortage has reached crisis proportions. Wages are very low.
- There is a significant wait list for subsidized care. This year 41% of the calls to CCRC were parents looking for subsidized care. Head Start is having a difficult time filling its program because the need for subsidized care far outstrips the available subsidies.
- Toddler and school age care are most in demand in Cambridge.

Ms. Rosa described a new option available to welfare reform victims. The state will pay \$2 per hour for childcare provided by unlicensed family members and friends to the children of former welfare recipients who are now working. Ms. Herold noted that this provides some payment for the option that low-income parents have had to use, often without any payment to their family and friends.

Ms. Rosa then described the city's Childcare Scholarship program. The program was established six years ago and is managed by CCRC. Through a combination of city funds and private donations, the program distributes about \$33,000 per year of assistance to eligible families.

In response to a question from Councillor Reeves, Ms. Rosa informed the committee that the definition of childcare in the submitted material includes care for children from infancy through

age 14. Ms Herold explained that in the data, the childcare numbers include only licensed programs and homes. The figures for DHS elementary school programs are included, while Community Schools enrollments are not. The new enrolled programs in the youth centers are in the process of applying for licensing, and when they are licensed, they will be included in the childcare statistics. Programs run by the School Department are not included in these statistics.

Vice Mayor Maher observed that it is widely stated that the end of rent control has forced many low-income people to leave Cambridge. Why, then, have the numbers not changed significantly?

School Committee Member Alice Turkel said that the area is experiencing a "mini baby boom." There are lots of new toddlers around, across all demographic lines.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Maher, Ms. Rosa stated that the typical family income for a family that receives subsidized childcare is \$23,000 per year. Vice Mayor Maher stated that he would be interested in more information on this topic.

Councillor Reeves then invited Cliff Cook, Planning Information Manager, CDD, to make a presentation on demographic trends in Cambridge. A copy of the material upon which Mr. Cook based his presentation is attached to this report (**Attachment B**). He emphasized the following major trends:

- Increasing population
- Fewer children and elderly residents
- Smaller households and fewer with children
- Job growth slanted toward white collar jobs
- Increasing household income
- Housing costs increasing even faster.

Councillor Decker asked how students are counted in population counts. Mr. Cook replied that students are counted the same as other residents. Students make up about 10% of the Cambridge population.

Vice Mayor Maher asked whether any of the demographic trends reflect the demise of rent control. Mr. Cook replied in the affirmative. He noted that the statistics show a net decline of 750 kids in the Cambridge public school system.

Councillor Reeves thanked the city staff for their presentation and thanked all those present for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

For the Committee

Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair

Human Services Committee

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT In City Council December 18, 2000

*Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair
Councillor Kathleen L. Born
Councillor Jim Braude*

**PUBLIC FACILITIES, ART AND
CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Chair

Councillor Henrietta Davis

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan

The Health and Environment and the Public Facilities, Art and Celebrations Committees conducted a joint public meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2000 at four o'clock and ten minutes p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Davis, Chair of the Health and Environment Committee, Councillor Born, Chair of the Public Facilities, Art and Celebration Committee, Councillor Sullivan, Councillor Braude, Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Ellen Semonoff, Deputy Director of Human Services, Paul Ryder, Director of Recreation, Julia Bowdoin, Conservation Commission Director, Sam Corda, Managing Director of the Water Department, Joe Harrington, Chair, Water Board, Jean Roger, Water Department, Peter Vargo, Water Department, Louise Weed, Co-Chair, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, James Rafferty, Member, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Ann Roosevelt, Member, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Chip Norton, Watershed Manager, Pat Pratt, Member, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Janice Snow, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Michael Feloney, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Jim Barton, Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, Jean Onesti, Member, Plant and Garden Club, Mary Kennedy, 57 Brewster Street, Sheila Cook, 34 Follen Street, Karen Kosko, 16 Griswold Street and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis opened the meeting. She apologized for the time change of the meeting. A presentation, she said, will be made by the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee (FPMPAC), the City Council will ask questions and then the Committees will hear from the public.

James Rafferty stated that he learned a lot about the different expectations for the Fresh Pond Master Plan. The plan calls for the creation of an advisory board. The vision statement in the plan revolves around critical plans like water preservation and ecology for Fresh Pond. He urged the City Council to support the Fresh Pond Master Plan.

Pat Pratt, Member, FPMPAC, gave a historical overview of life at the Fresh Pond Reservation. In 1852 a private company sold water from Fresh Pond to the public. The City purchased the

private water company in 1866. In 1894 Hamstead was hired to preserve the reservation. The filtration plant was built in 1920. A legislative act in 1925 was enacted to use the land for the City Infirmary.

Ruth Birkoff enlisted people to clean up and restore the reservation. A liaison was created between volunteers, the Public Works Department and the Water Department. During this time 93 truckloads of debris was removed from the preservation. The Cambridge Plant and Garden Club became involved in the reservation and the club planted flowers. In 1978 a horticultural review was written outlining the plants appropriate for the reservation.

Sam Corda, Managing Director of the Water Department, stated that the water system is very important to the Water Department. Three areas of equal importance are:

1. 25 square miles of the watershed;
2. Training process; and
3. The distribution and transmission system.

The watershed area is important to maintain high quality of the water. He read the mission statement of the Water Department which includes effective watershed management and provides for customer service to residents. The Fresh Pond Master Plan (FPMP) is a unique approach to water management. The Fresh Pond Reservation, he said, is a unique space because it is a highly used open space area and the water supply reservoir.

Julia Bowdoin, Director of the Conservation Commission and a member of the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee, stated that a scientific inventory of the natural resources was established when Rizzo Associates was hired and began conducting the inventory. The Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee recommended the Stewardship Plan draft to the public in November, 1998. In May, 1999, the Final Stewardship Plan was adopted by FPMPAC. Shoreline erosion is the most important issue which contributes to water quality problems. Priorities, she said, are outlined in the Stewardship Plan and the FPMP.

James Rafferty stated that there is a need for the Master Plan. The Master Plan is an important tool to guide citizens and city agencies on the competing issues. Land policy uses looks at the pond and sets guidelines and balances open space uses.

Councillor Davis thanked all for their contribution.

Councillor Sullivan thanked the members of the committee for their effort for the last three years. It is important to oversee the protection of the water supply, he said. The Reservation is an investment for our citizens to enjoy in the 6.2 mile city. He further stated that there are not a lot of passive recreation in the city. He expressed his concern that the Water Board maintain authority over the FPMPAC.

Councillor Born stated that it is important that this is a joint public meeting of the Health and Environment and the Public Facilities, Art and Celebrations Committees. The Fresh Pond Reservation is a public facility and a major open space piece of land. Fresh Pond is a natural

element that the City of Boston can be envious of. Maintaining the water supply, the recreation needs, and developing other public facilities needs to be balanced and this plan is a policy statement. This plan will be reviewed in 2080 and it will be viewed that the leaders of the city had a vision for the future.

Public comment was opened at 5:00 p.m. on the motion of Councillor Davis.

Karen Kosko, 16 Griswold Street, agreed with the preservation aspect, but not with limiting the access. She wanted the area to be used as an educational tool. She suggested getting the word out to the public and the creation of a time capsule for the grand opening. She asked about flooding Glacken Field for ice-skating. She stated she was impressed with the work and wanted to use the area for educational use. Mr. Rossi stated that the tennis courts were flooded. There is a safety issue at little Fresh Pond.

Grenelle Scott, 8 Ash Street Place, supported the FPMP.

Virginia Wadsworth, 31 Hawthorn Street, also recorded her support for the Master Plan.

Constance W. Holden, 16 Lowell Street, supported the Master Plan.

Esther Pullman, 10 Ash Street Place, supported the plan. Consensus has been reached and now the plan can move forward, she said.

Janet Burns, 57 Frost Street, supported the plan.

Anna Nathanson, 3 Gray Garden East, also listed her support for the FPMP.

Jean Onesti, 4 Gray Garden West, stated that she is a 45 year resident and supports the Master Plan.

Mary Kennedy, 57 Brewster Street, supported the Master Plan and she hoped that a strong committee will be maintained.

Sheila G. Cook, 34 Follen Street, stated that the reservation is a wonderful place and that the balance should continue.

Jean Rogers, Water Department, stated that the Master Plan is a good document. She encouraged that the plan include the public in the Stewardship Program.

Amy Nadel thanked the FPMPAC and the City Council for their support of the Master Plan. She urged the City Council to support the plan so that her children can enjoy the reservation.

Judy Bracken, 89 Irving Street, stated her support for the FPMP. She further stated that the reservation needs to be preserved.

Bonnie T. Solomon, 1 Newport Road, recorded her support for the FPMP.

Silvie Snow, a student at CRLS, stated that the Master Plan is important to the Fresh Pond Reservation. It is important to protect the watershed.

An unidentified resident thanked the FPMPAC for all their work.

Annette LaMond, 7 Riedesel Avenue, thanked the FPMPAC and hoped that the plan will go through.

The following persons also recorded their support for the FPMP: Betsy Van Buren, 19 Coolidge Hill Road, Jeremy Cutting, 988 Memorial Drive, Phoebe Leighton, 128 Lakeview Avenue, A. David Davis, 140 Larch Road, Charles H. Weed, 109 Avon Hill Street and Michael Hanlon, Jr., 28 Blakeslee Street.

Councillor Davis stated that she walks Fresh Pond. The wonders at Fresh Pond she holds dear. This resource is used for recreation as well as a watershed. The differences have been worked out, she said. The standards need to keep high to keep the water protected.

Councillor Born told the committee of a letter that she received from a resident who could not understand why Fresh Pond could not be used solely as a recreational area with Cambridge obtaining water instead from the MWRA along with Boston. She said that she is pleased that Cambridge will now have a state of the art water system all its own and a major recreational area as well.

Councillor Davis made the following motion:

ORDERED: That the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Report be accepted and referred to the full City Council.

The motion -

Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at five o'clock and seventeen minutes p.m.

For the Committees, Councillor Davis, Chair

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Councillor Born, Chair

Public Facilities, Art & Celebrations
Committee

TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING In City Council December 18, 2000

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair

Councillor Jim Braude

The Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee conducted a public meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2000 at five o'clock and seventeen minutes p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion on shuttle service and signage at bus stops in the city and any other issues relating to traffic in the city.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Born, Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning Division of the Community Development Department, Joseph Barr, and Katherine Preston, Transportation Division of the Community Development Department, Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, Richard Scali, Executive Officer, License Commission and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis convened the hearing and explained the purpose. The first topic discussed was the issue of shuttle service.

Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning Division of the Community Development Department, stated that in the Spring a study was done to analyze the need for shuttle service in the city. In July 2000, Phase I of the study was presented to the City Council. In December 2000, Phase II will be presented to the City Council.

Joseph Barr, Transportation Division of the Community Development Department, stated that the task of Phase I was to look at the need for improving transit service in the city. The public, he said, is happy with the current transit service as contained in 3.9 out of 5 telephone surveys.

In Phase I, two market areas were not reached:

- The elderly and senior population; and
- The youth population.

The elderly have unique needs, he said. The Council on Aging runs a shuttle service. Non-emergency service is available from SCM Transportation. Additional service can be provided in the area of non-emergency. Costs need to be determined and who will provide the service.

In the area of youth, sports and after school activities need to be reviewed by the School Department and determine how can this area be served.

The city, he said, received a grant for a shuttle service. This service will be planned by the Charles River TMA. The city will receive knowledge about running a shuttle service. The city can operate a shuttle service as long as it does not interfere with the MBTA service. Jitney license, he said, includes any vehicle which carries passengers for hire. One exception to the jitney licensing procedure is when there is one pick up/drop off stop and these routes the DET licenses.

In the Phase I the need to improve existing MBTA services was outlined.

Richard Scali, Executive Officer, License Commission, informed the committee that a consultant has been hired to address taxicab service issues such as customer service and quality of service.

Councillor Davis asked Mr. Scali if the LMA shuttle is operating within the scope of the License Commission regulation. Mr. Scali responded that the LMA is not regulated by the License Commission because it is a free service traveling to the medical area. Councillor Davis stated that the LMA is not a free service shuttle. Mr. Barr stated this service is not open to the public.

Ms. Rasmussen stated that the city's licensing procedure should be reviewed as to how the best interest of the city is served. If the public is forced to be allowed on private shuttles it may hamper the overall goal of the city for shuttles. The LMA shuttle has changed over the years.

Councillor Davis questioned the 200 responses to the survey outlining the area of need. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the survey was not the only means of information used to outline the area of need. Meetings were also held throughout the city, she said. The 200 responses to the survey was a reasonable survey according to the Statistics Manager in the Community Development Department.

Councillor Davis stated that she put in an order requesting that the after school sports and extra curriculum transportation needs of high school children be reviewed. Ms. Rasmussen informed the committee that a meeting will be held with the School Department on this issue. Councillor Davis stated that Bill Bates in the Physical Education Department is the key person to contact in the School Department.

Councillor Davis asked if the shuttle between the city, TMA and private businesses will be an open door shuttle. Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative. TMA, he said, will plan which businesses will be involved and what routes will be used. A grant has been received for a shuttle route from North Station to Kendall Square to University Park. Councillor Davis stated that residents would like to have the benefit of a shuttle to travel around the city. A shuttle from Harvard Square which travels to the library that will loop around the city is a vision that she has. Ms. Rasmussen stated that the city would have to run the vehicle at a greater frequency than the MBTA. Experience, she said, will be gained with the North Station shuttle.

Mr. James Gascoigne, Charles River TMA, informed the committee that it is difficult to get businesses to work together on shuttle service.

Elie Yarden, 143 Pleasant Street, asked if the business shuttle was going to use diesel fuel. Mr. Barr stated that the city is hoping to get an alternative fuel vehicle. Mr. Gascoigne stated an RFP (Request for Proposal) is being done and will include alternative fuel pricing.

Charles Bahne, 76 Standish Street, stated that a list should be compiled of all shuttle service within the city. Mr. Barr responded that there is a list of shuttle service within the city.

Mr. Bahne stated that Haymarket station is a terminus for busses coming into North Station. He stated that students and employees who use the LMA shuttle have to pay a fare by buying tickets.

John Gintell, 9 West Street, suggested reviewing the Somerville shuttle which is a loop shuttle. Ms. Rasmussen stated that Somerville shuttle is not successful yet. Mr. Bahne stated that it is impossible to get a schedule of the Somerville shuttle which only stops at designated stops. Regarding the surveys about new shuttles, Mr. Gintell stated that people do not see the advantage of new things until they use the service. The North Station shuttle needs to be monitored for quality and marketing needs to be done, he said. The LMA shuttle, he said, could include patients to the medical center. Service reliability and predictability is important, he said.

Councillor Davis informed the committee that a representative on shuttle service from Boulder, Colorado is willing to come to Cambridge to describe their shuttle service and the process used to develop it.

Councillor Davis made the following motion:

ORDERED: That The City Manager or his designee be and hereby is requested to invite a representative from Boulder, Colorado be invited to Cambridge to discuss the issue of shuttle service.

On a voice vote the motion -

Carried.

At six o'clock and fourteen minutes p.m. the topic of signs at bus stops was discussed.

Ms. Sue Clippinger, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, outlined the strategies to get the information out to the public for bus stops. It is a two-phase project, she said. The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department will make the signs which will include the route name. The routing will be placed on the back of a tombstone sign at bus stops. Scheduling frequency information is important, but putting this information on the signs is more complex. The strategy is to seek a grant to secure holders to install the schedules at the stops. The quarterly changes to the schedule will be the concern, she said.

The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department will start with Route 69, a high ridership route with 40 stops. Two signs will be produced including the website address and the MBTA telephone number. This winter is the projected time frame. By the end of the summer, experience will be seen and then the remainder of the city will be done.

Councillor Davis asked how long will it take for the 29 bus routes to be posted. Ms. Clippinger responded that getting the signs will be the time consuming part of the process. Each site needs to be reviewed for the location of the tombstone signs. It might take longer to install the second tombstone sign, she said. To complete the remainder of the city will be a financial concern.

Councillor Davis asked if it will be one year until the first route is done. Ms. Clippinger stated that by the end of this budget cycle the first route will be posted. The cost of the other routes will be in the next budget cycle.

Councillor Davis suggested using stickers similar to street cleaning stickers to change bus information. Ms. Clippinger stated that this is time consuming. A "No Weekend Service" is a doable strategy, she said. Changes, she said, become a management issue. The city is committed that there should be a schedule at the stops, the problem is how do you accomplish this feat.

Elie Yarden stated that every bus stop should have a bus shelter. He also urged that the sign should contain a map with the bus route and the stops. He further suggested that information should be posted listing the arrival time at each given bus stop. This sets up expectations for service, he said. He suggested the map should be a good design. It is a demand issue, not a marketing issue, he said. Complaints about inadequacies has increased the use of the automobile.

Mr. Gintell stated that priority should be given to the front stop. Do the easy thing first, he urged. He suggested an experiment such a web site - www.nextbus.com.

Mr. Bahne stated that the MBTA is not good at posting bus stops and schedules. Many cities have dedicated telephone numbers for certain routes, he said. The city needs to focus on what it can do. Signs, he said, are not in the correct position for the user. The issue of updating the signs needs to be addressed. He informed the committee of a sign in Porter Square that is fifteen years out of date. He agreed with the concept of consolidation on the signs.

Mr. Bahne suggested to the committee that storeowners be asked to post the bus schedule in their store windows. The Route 69 bus shares this route with other busses and the shared stops should have the shared routes on the sign. The T logo and tombstone signs should be installed in Central Square, he said.

Councillor Davis asked if the bus stops will be posted at the Holmes block. Mr. Barr stated that the stops will be revised when the Holmes Building is completed. Councillor Davis stated that a map of the area including the routes and the stop locations is needed for this area.

Mr. Gascoigne stated that this is a good start. There is a complexity to this issue. The devil is in the detail, he said. He urged that the simplest should be done first, then focus on the details. It is difficult to put information in a small space.

Councillor Davis stated that trying signs out with a focus group is a good idea.

Councillor Davis thanked all for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

For the Committee,

Councillor Henrietta Davis

Chair

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, RULES

AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE MEMBERS In City Council December 18, 2000

Councillor Jim Braude, Chair

Councillor Henrietta Davis

Vice Mayor David P. Maher

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan

Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

The Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee held a public meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at three o'clock and fifty minutes p. m. in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding claims filed against the City by members of the public.

Present at the meeting were: Councillor Jim Braude, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Vice Mayor David P. Maher, Nancy Glowa, First Assistant City Solicitor, Nancy B. Schlacter, Legal Counsel, Law Department and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Braude convened the meeting and explained the purpose. He requested Councillor Toomey to serve as chair of the Claims meeting. Thereupon the Committee moved to the consideration of the following claims:

Claimant Nature of Claim Award

David Anecchiarico Waste water backed up into Approved

49 Phillips Circle his basement apartment

Waltham, MA 02452 at 129 Magazine Street,

Cambridge.

David Dears Two tires were damaged as a Approved

7 Landers Street result of striking a pothole on

Somerville, MA 02143 Vasser Street next to MIT.

Betty Denich Service pipe and power lines Approved

25 Chalk Street were damaged by a fallen tree

Cambridge, MA 02139 during Hurricane Floyd.

Gary L. Dryfoos Money and personal items were Approved

P.O. Box 425400 found to be missing from his

Cambridge, MA 02142 apartment at 117 Harvard Street

after a fire occurred there.

George Hutchinson The connection to storm drain Approved

118 Chilton Street broke and had to be repaired.

Cambridge, MA 02138 Sewerage backed into cellar.

Jack Lonardelli Vehicle was sprayed with paint Approved

734 Cambridge Street while it was parked on Marion

Cambridge, MA 02141 Street.

Katherine G. O'Dair A tire and rim were damaged Approved

252 Massachusetts Avenue, #10 as a result of striking a pothole

Arlington, MA 02472 on Vassar Street.

Melissa Pacheco Her cellular phone and its leather Approved

66 Ferrin Street case were stolen from her desk in

Charlestown, MA 02129 the Finance Department.

Peter Sax Vehicle was damaged as a result Approved

7 Woodbridge Street, Apt. #6 of being struck by a fire engine

Cambridge, MA 02140 while it was parked on Putnam

Avenue at Surrey Street

Richard V. Scali Tore pants on conference table Approved

c/o License Commission at the License Commission.

831 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139

Jeffrey M. Walker Shirt was damaged due to a Approved

P.O. Box 390462 freshly painted utility pole on

Cambridge, MA 02139 Massachusetts Avenue.

Councillor Braude thanked those present for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at four o'clock and forty-five minutes p. m.

For the Committee,

Councillor Jim Braude,

Chair

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY
OFFICERS
FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 2000**

1. A communication was received from Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. transmitting a communication from Sheila R. McIntyre, Hearing Officer, regarding notice of a public hearing on January 17, 2000¹ at 7:00 a.m. at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on the proposal of Cambridge Electric Light Company to construct and operate an approximately 2.6 mile-long, underground 115 kilovolt electric transmission line in the City.
2. A communication was received from Councillor Henrietta Davis regarding a communication from Melissa Morse transmitting concern about cars running red lights in Central Square.