

Cambridge Firemen's Relief Association

INCORPORATED MARCH 19, 1892

CAMBRIDGE - MASSACHUSETTS

Engine Company #9
167 Lexington Avenue
Cambridge, Mass.
March 2, 1973

Hon. Barbara Ackerman
Office of the Mayor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Madam Mayor:

I would like to bring to your attention a situation which I believe deserves serious consideration by you and the other members of the Honorable City Council in your discussion of the Fire Department Budget for the period ending June 30, 1974, insofar as it applies to Schedule B22, namely, Medical payments to those Fire Fighters who are injured in the performance of their duty.

I would like to give a short history of the situation as it applies to the Fire Fighters and the payment of medical bills.

As long as the Firemen's Relief Association has been in existence, 1892, they have paid for the medical expenses of Fire Fighters injured in the line of duty, except in rare instances where the cost of certain individual cases were too much for the Relief Association treasury to bear.

In 1961 because of the rising costs in medical expenses the City of Cambridge and the Cambridge Firemen's Relief Association entered into an agreement whereby the City would assume responsibility for all bills that exceeded \$200.00. After twelve years of living with this arrangement I feel that for the following reasons a revaluation of this agreement is in order:

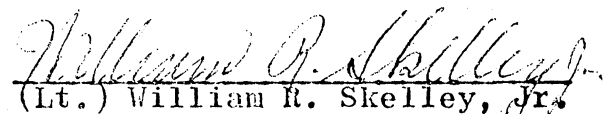
1. Chapter 41, Section 100, of the General Laws specifically provides for indemnification for Fire Fighters injured in the line of duty.
2. I, personally, have conducted a survey of many Fire Departments in Massachusetts and find that without exception the Municipality pays for all bills of Fire Fighters injured in the line of duty.

3. It has always been the practice of the City of Cambridge to pay all medical bills of the members of the Cambridge Police Department injured in the line of duty.
4. Statistics have shown that the Fire Fighters job is the most hazardous occupation in the country. However, in the Fire Department Budget for 1972 only \$5,000.00 was appropriated for medical expenses for three (300) hundred Fire Fighters.
5. It is generally assumed by the average citizen in this City that the City has always assumed full responsibility for injuries incurred by Fire Fighters.
6. The additional amount necessary for the City to assume their full responsibility in this matter would be around \$5,000.00 based on previous years records.
7. Correcting this inequity would enable us, in the near future, to give members of our Relief Association the same retirement and death benefits enjoyed by our counterparts in the Police Department.

The Fire Chief has requested an appropriation of \$30,000.00 for the 18 month period ending June 30, 1974. I strongly urge that you grant him this amount so that a long standing inequity existng in the Fire Department may be corrected.

I would appreciate the opportunity to sit down with you and discuss this in addition to the overall situation regarding medical bills of Cambridge Fire Fighters.

Sincerely yours,


(Lt.) William R. Skelley, Jr.
President

C.C.
Chief W.J. Cremins
City Manager J.H. Corcoran

115
Cambridge Fireman's Relief Association
relative to medical Expenses.

In City Council

March 12, 1973

3/12/73

Ref. to Budget Hearing