

City of Cambridge

In City Council.....October 15, 1979.....

The City Council **Committee** on Elder Affairs, comprised of Councillor Alfred Vellucci, Chairman, and Councillors Francis Duehay and David Wylie, held a meeting of the Committee on Thursday, September 27, 1979 at 8 A. M. The purpose of ~~to which~~ this meeting was to discuss emergency fuel arrangements for the elderly and other Cambridge residents which are anticipated in the upcoming winter months.

Councillor Vellucci requested Mr. John Nyham, Chairman of the Board of University Bank and Trust, Mr. Anthony Uglietto of Cubby Oil Co., Mr. Gordon Gottsche, Just-A-Start Corporation and Ms. Jill Herold, Human Services Specialist for the City, to be present in order to discuss what alternatives were available for the elderly.

Mr. Nyham stated that his bank had been thinking about this problem for awhile and have come up with the idea of a "Therma-Card" for elderly and other Cambridge residents. He stated that the "Therma-Card" would essentially be used as any other charge card would only the main purpose would be to pay fuel bills. A person would fill out an application at the bank and assuming he or she didn't have bad credit, would be issued a card and thereby would be eligible for \$1000.00 of credit.

Councillor Duehay questioned whether or not interest would be charged for this loan.

Mr. Nyham responded by stating there would be an interest charge of approximately 12% per year.

Reports:

Ms. Herold stated that she believed this could be prohibitive to the elderly in particular since going to banks and taking loans is difficult for them to deal with in their advanced years.

Councillors Vellucci and Duehay both stated that they thought some other arrangement would be more suitable.

Discussion then centered around the possibility of establishing an escrow fund for each person who would receive "Therma-Card" hopefully being charged only for those times money would actually be drawn.

Councillor Vellucci stated the seriousness of the situation by stating that many small oil dealers such as Cubby Oil Co. have been told by the distributors that they will be allowed a 10 day credit period only. If they as a dealer have outstanding debits they will not be given oil. Councillor Vellucci further stated that this policy can only hurt the small businessman and those elderly persons and others on fixed income. Councillor Vellucci requested Mr. Nyham, Mr. Gottsche and Ms. Herold to meet again to draft a formal proposal on this program including a way that all alternative energy programs could be distributed throughout the city. This meeting was to take place within a week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 A. M.

For the Committee,

Councillor Alfred E. Vellucci
Chairman

REPORT *S-534*

Committee on Elder Affairs for meeting
held on September 27, 1979 re: emergency
fuel arrangements for the elderly and
other Cambridge residents.

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Placed on File