



# City of Cambridge

O-1.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

April 24, 2000

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
 COUNCILLOR BORN  
 COUNCILLOR BRAUDE  
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
 COUNCILLOR DECKER  
 MAYOR GALLUCCIO  
 VICE MAYOR MAHER  
 COUNCILLOR REEVES  
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Recreation programs are important to our children; and

WHEREAS: Recreation is vitally important to persons with special needs; and

WHEREAS: Programs such as Special Olympics have increased in importance as well as providing companionship; and improving athletic ability of the participants; and

WHEREAS: Dependable transportation is needed for programs offered by the Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS: Recently the bus that transports children and adults with special needs has been unreliable requiring the programs to be cancelled or participants in these programs being stranded; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Assistant City Manager for Human Services and any other appropriate department to take the appropriate steps to insure that there is reliable, dependable transportation to recreation and athletic programs for children and adults with special needs.

In City Council April 24, 2000.  
 Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
 Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury  
 City Clerk

0-1 ✓

Councillor Sullivan

Whereas: Recreation Programs are important to our children; and

Whereas: Recreation is vitally important to persons with special needs; and

Whereas: Programs such as Special Olympics have increased in importance as well as providing companionship; and improving athletic ability of the participants; and

Whereas: <sup>Dependable</sup> Transportation is needed for programs offered by the Recreation Dept; and

Whereas: Recently the bus that transports children & adults with special needs has been unreliable ~~making the programs~~ requiring the programs to be cancelled or participants in these programs being stranded; now therefore be it

Ordered That the City Manager be thereby is requested to direct the Assistant City Manager for Human Services <sup>any other appropriate Department.</sup> to take the appropriate steps to ensure that there is reliable, dependable transportation to recreation & athletic programs for children and adults with special needs

Date sent: Wed, 05 Apr 2000 20:27:40 -0400  
From: "Polyxane S. Cobb" <Polyxane@mediaone.net >  
Send reply to: Polyxane@mediaone.net  
To: msullivan@ci.cambridge.ma.us  
Subject: Special Needs Bus

Dear Councilor Sullivan,

My son Ethan has been enjoying the recreation programs offered by Cambridge for adults with special needs. As a younger child he participated in the afterschool programs and Saturday program, as well as Camp Rainbow in the summer. Now he goes bowling on Tuesday nights, swimming on Wednesday, and to Saturday Program where he participates in Special Olympics and other recreational events. Just last week he won a silver medal at the Regional Special Olympics swim meet at Babson College in Wellesley.

For the past year or so the bus given by Cambridge Trust Co. to the city for use by the children and adults with special needs for recreation and afterschool programs in the city has been regularly breaking down. From one week to the next parents and young people never know if programs will take place, if the bus will be working at the end of the day, if the bus will start at the beginning of the day .....

Children and adults in the programs often learn ON THE DAY of a program that the bus has died yet again and the program will either be canceled or people are on their own to get there-not always an easy matter. The program had to borrow a bus to take the athletes to a Special Olympics event two weeks ago.

Imagine what it must be like for parents of younger children in the afterschool programs to learn at the end of the day that their kids are stranded at program because the bus failed.

This state of things cannot continue. I'm hoping that the City Council will act to ensure that these young people and the adults in the adult programs for people with special needs continue to have access to these important programs. They need a reliable bus.

I cannot emphasize how important these programs are. Often they provide nearly the entire recreational and social life for many of the people who enjoy them so much. While typical children enjoy a wealth of programs in

athletics and other recreation, many of the people served by the programs for special needs have only these valuable programs. Please help to make sure they can continue.

Poly Cobb  
140 Lexington Ave.  
Cambridge MA 02138

**From:** CAMBMAS1@aol.com  
**Date sent:** Wed, 12 Apr 2000 12:24:12 EDT  
**Subject:** Fwd: Special Needs Bus  
**To:** MHorgan@ci.cambridge.ma.us, DLopes@ci.cambridge.ma.us

Mary would you put this in hansen.

Donna would put a council order in on this.

Thank you,

Michael



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**Order #1**

Take appropriate steps to insure that there is dependable transportation to recreation and athletic programs for children and adults with special needs.

**Councillor Sullivan**

In City Council April 24, 2000

**ORDER ADOPTED**