

City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs
51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, 498-9076

THE ARMORY SHELTER

During the winter of 1986-87 the Department of Human Services conducted a series of shelter censuses to determine the extent of "overflow" from the four existing shelters. The findings indicated that there were between fifteen and twenty persons turned away each night. In response, the City joined with the Harvard Square Churches and other shelter representatives in attempting to locate a suitable site to address this need. After exhausting public and private contacts including schools, universities, hospitals, landlords, and churches, it was determined that the National Guard Armory was a suitable and, most importantly available site.

After negotiations with the Executive Office of Human Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the National Guard, the City secured the Armory as the site for an emergency, twenty bed shelter. While the paperwork at the State was being finalized, the City opened the doors of the Tobin School to the shelter effort for a week and then transferred the operation to the Armory in late February.

The City operated the shelter for a week while evaluating proposals and subsequently granted the Phillips Brooks House, operators of the University Lutheran Emergency Shelter, the operational responsibility until April 15. As of April 16 the City resumed operation of the shelter. Given the closing of the temporary winter

DIVISIONS:

Childcare
498-9076

Community Learning Center
547-1589

Community & Youth
498-9037/9072

Council on Aging/Elderly Services
498-9039

Low Income Fuel Assistance
498-9038

Planning & Development
498-9076

Recreation
498-9028

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

JUL 31 10 48 AM '77

RECEIVED

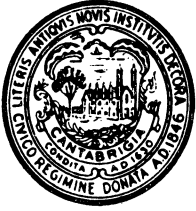
PAGE 2

shelters, the City began negotiations with the National Guard and EOHS to extend the shelter operation beyond April 30. The need for an ongoing, year round emergency shelter had become clear and the City continued its contact with EOHS and the Department of Public Welfare to ensure the continued operation of the Armory Shelter. An extension at the Armory was secured and the shelter continues to operate through the summer.

While the National Guard was away for their annual summer bivouac in New York, the shelter was moved to University Lutheran Church for two weeks and the Tobin School for three. The program resumed at the Armory on July 27.

The shelter has been filled to capacity on most nights of operation. In addition to a bed for the night, shower facilities, and storage lockers, the program provides both dinner and breakfast. On-site casework by the City's Community Case Worker, its Mental Health Worker for the Homeless, and various shelter staff has resulted in a number of guests finding transitional and permanent housing. The City's intent is to work with the Executive Office of Human Services, the Department of Public Welfare as the funding vehicle, and the Harvard Square Churches to keep this emergency shelter open on a year round basis. The need has been demonstrated and the City's response is appropriate for the identified need.

July 29, 1987



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

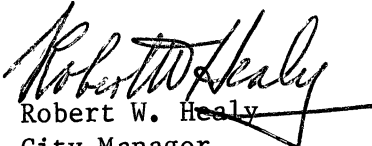
Deputy City Manager

August 3, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a report from the Department of Human Service Programs relative to shelters for the homeless.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf

Enc.

Re: enclosed report from the Dept. of Human
Service Programs on shelters for the homeless.

In City Council,

August 3, 1987

*Referred to the Mayor's
Committee on the Homeless*

*copy sent to Philip Mangano,
Human Services Dept.
(Mayor's Committee on the
Homeless) 8/6/87 alh*