



Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, Inc.

71 Cherry Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Telephone: (617) 547-4680

May 4, 1987

MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

It is very important that City Councillors, the Human Service Commission and the City Manager clearly understand why we chose to participate in a public grievance.

We are not angry because we did not get funded. No one enjoys rejections, so it was not with pleasure that we received the news that our proposal was not being funded. However, under ordinary circumstances, we would have accepted the rejection as "par for the course", had not we been told during the week of March 16th and March 30th, before the proposal deadlines, that the School Department and the Hospital had been promised funding; and that Concilio would not be funded.

Understand that prior to the Gateway Committee decisions, we treated information about Gateway as rumor and speculation. But on receiving full disclosure regarding the funding recommendations of the committee, we found it so close to the information we had received earlier, we had to ask questions:

" Did the Human Service Committee review all proposals? Response: Yes

Could the committee have rejected the School Department and Hospital? Response: Not really,
The committee did reduce their request. The
School Department had asked for the full \$200,000.

The issues is now a matter of confidence. Did City officials decide that the Gateways money should be used to strengthen existing programs, prior to committee review? If the answer is yes, then the guidelines should have reflected such a decision. The decision could have been reflected in a statement that simply said the City has received money for Newcomers and the funds will be used to expand services in the following areas. Additional, a % of the funding will be

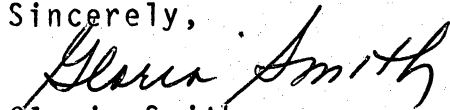
set aside to support needed services not provided by city agencies.

We are not always in agreement with the ways in which the City departments decide to allocate funds but generally there is clarity around the availability of monies; and agencies like the Fuller House do not apply for those funds or grieve they are not available to us.

If the City Officials did not decide on a funding pattern prior to the Gateway Committee meeting, then we are all victims of rumors, both the agencies requesting funding and the individuals who made the decisions. Each of us lack clarity and without clarity there is often mistrust.

On an individual agency basis, the Fuller House did not expect to receive funding at the level requested. We realize that the number of Eritreans in Cambridge is small, as a matter of fact the bilingual department did not realize that the Eritrean students had refugee status. Yet, since the problems that the Eritreans refugees have are serious and require the same kind of specialized response that other immigrant groups need, we decided to try to work on the issues while they are small in number, in hopes that they will never become greater.

Sincerely,



Gloria Smith
Executive Director
Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House

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S-317

Comm. from Gloria Smith, Exec. Dir., Maragret
Fuller Neighborhood House Re: their not being
funded by the Gateways Committee.

In City Council,

May 4, 1987

Placed on File

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