

Vote of the City Council Approving the Application for an Urban Observatory in Cambridge and the Allocation of Revenue Sharing Funds for ^{MASSACHUSETTS} second and third year of project.

In City Council September 30 1974

Agenda # 7

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mrs. Ackermann	✓			
Mr. Clinton	✓			
Mr. Danehy	✓			
Mr. Duehay	✓			
Mrs. Graham	✓			
Mr. Russell	✓			
Mr. Vellucci	✓			
Mr. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Sullivan	✓			
	9	0	0	

Councilman Vellucci Moved for suspension of the rules which motion prevailed in order to move reconsideration and on a voice vote reconsideration failed



City of Cambridge

Mayor Walter J. Sullivan

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 30, 1974

WHEREAS:

The Urban Observatory program funded by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for over five years has been judged by HUD and the National League of Cities as a success; and

WHEREAS:

This program has been for large cities, and HUD and the National League of Cities are now jointly sponsoring a competition among smaller cities for one to three year funding of ten additional urban observatories; and

WHEREAS:

The basic purpose of the Urban Observatory program is to apply university research techniques and capabilities in the ongoing effort to solve municipal problems; and

WHEREAS:

Cambridge is particularly fortunate to have outstanding university research capabilities at its doorsteps; and

WHEREAS:

The Cambridge City Manager has entered into an agreement with the Laboratory of Architecture and Planning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in cooperation with the Joint Center for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, for joint submittal of a proposal for urban observatory funding, in competition with 147 other cities; and

WHEREAS:

The \$75,000 first year grant from HUD would, if Cambridge is successful in the competition, be matched by a \$25,000 cash contribution and supporting in-kind services by the City, fundable from the City's "entitlement" allocation under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS:

The Cambridge City Manager has advised the City Council that its approval and endorsement is required in the proposal submittal to HUD and the National League of Cities, both with regard to the concept of an urban observatory program in Cambridge and with regard to the proposed work program dealing with the improvement of city services to Cambridge citizens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Cambridge City Council endorses the concept of an urban observatory in Cambridge, as outlined above, and that the City Council further endorses the proposed work program dealing with the improvement of city services to Cambridge citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Cambridge City Council places itself on record as prepared to allocate Community Development revenue sharing funds to payment of the Cambridge local share of the Urban Observatory program in its second and third year, in the event that HUD provides basic funding for those years.

in City Council Sept 30, 1974
 Adopted by yes and no Vote
 Yes 9 Nays 0 Absent 2
Paul J. Walsh
 CITY CLERK City Clerk



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in City Council Sept. 30, 1974
 Adopted by yeas and nays Vote
 Yeas 9 Nays 0 Absent 0
Paul E. Leahy
 CITY CLERK City Clerk



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Paul E. Kelly
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City of Cambridge

Mayor Walter J. Sullivan

IN CITY COUNCIL

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in City Council Sept. 30, 1974

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Paul E. Leahy
CITY CLERK City Clerk

Walter J. Sullivan, Mayor

in City Council

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Walter J. Sullivan, Mayor

in City Council

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Order

Mayor Sullivan- Relative to the
establishment of an Urban Observatory
for Cambridge.

In City Council
Sept. 30, 1974



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

September 30, 1974

To the Honorable, the City Council:

As you no doubt are aware, in the late 1960's HUD and the National League of Cities joined with ten of the nation's largest municipalities to run an "urban observatory" demonstration program. The purpose of this program was to test the concept that cities and universities, working together, could apply university research capabilities effectively in looking for solutions to local urban problems.

Now in its sixth year, this program has been judged a success by its sponsors. The Boston Urban Observatory, one of the ten in the program, has been an example on our doorstep. Operated jointly by the City of Boston, and, first, Boston University, later the University of Massachusetts, it has made well-documented contributions to the improvement of living conditions in Boston.

Based on this success with large-city urban observatories, HUD has now joined with the National League of Cities to sponsor the establishment of ten new urban observatories in smaller cities, ranging in size from 30,000 to 250,000 persons. Of more than 600 cities in this population class, Cambridge is among 148 that have entered a competition for designation by HUD as an urban observatory city under the forthcoming three-year program.

In line with procedures for the competition, Cambridge has joined with representatives of M.I.T. and the Joint Center for Urban Studies to submit an application on September 30, 1974. If successful, the application will provide \$75,000 in HUD funds for the first year of research, to be matched by \$25,000 in City funds which I will provide from existing appropriations. Should we later qualify for second and third year funding, our local share would be \$33,000 and \$50,000 successively.

A summary of the proposed work-program for the first year is attached. I will need a resolution by the City Council approving this work program at the Council's meeting of this date in order to qualify us for entry in the competition.

PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR A CAMBRIDGE URBAN OBSERVATORY PROGRAM

We perceive research needs in terms of two broad areas: people and housing and the delivery of services.

Delivery of Services:

A. Cost Analysis:

- . Cost-effectiveness of city expenditures and efficiency of services -
(defining units of output, units of cost, standards of performance, comparative fiscal analysis, etc.)

B. Operations

- . Research into defining the best operational scale for community services and facilities (i. e., size, location, number of families within a service area, etc.)

Housing and People:

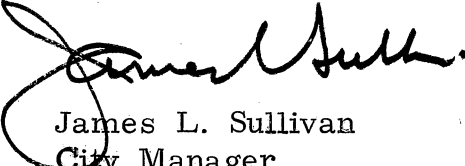
- . Housing for the elderly: a study of alternative living arrangements
(i. e., congregate housing, home ownership, etc.)
- . Mobility-Migration-Filtration of the Population
(who is moving in and out of the city, where and why, and to determine future population and their service needs)
- . Attitudinal Survey: a methodology for identifying citizen concerns toward community issues.
(i. e., within the comprehensive planning process, narrowing the communication gap between what officials and formal citizen groups perceive as issues and priorities and what the public actually perceives)
- . Open Space: a study to determine the feasibility of utilizing public action to fulfill open space needs through the development of legal and design mechanisms applicable to privately-owned property.

To the City Council (cont.)

September 30, 1974

Should your Honorable Body want further details about this competition and the urban observatory program as it has operated elsewhere in the country, it is requested that questions be directed to James L. Farrell, Assistant City Manager, or Edward A. Handy, Assistant Director/Intergovernmental Relations, at Extension 355.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

Agenda # 7

489

Urban Observatory Program Application
to the Dept. of Housing and Urban De.

9/30/74

- Application Approval -
9-5-8

In City Council,

Sept. 30, 1974

9/30/1974

DUSH
RF
A