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CAMBRIDGE-SOMERVILLE MENTAL HEALTH AND RETARDATION CENTER

June 28, 1985

The City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors:

On behalf of the Geriatric Service of Cambridge-Somerville Mental Health and Retardation Center, we are writing in support of Shelter, Inc.'s proposed shelter at the site of the Prospect Street Congregational Church. This carefully planned project will help to address a very critical housing need in the Cambridge community.

As caregivers for the entire Cambridge and Somerville area, we recognize that the Central Square neighborhood is already heavily impacted in terms of human service needs. Therefore, we understand the neighbors' very legitimate concerns that Shelter, Inc.'s new service might tip the balance of this marginally stable community. However, in reviewing our favorable experiences in working with Shelter, Inc. over the years and in examining the proposed model of service, we feel confident that Shelter, Inc. will prove to be a good and responsible neighbor. The project planners have anticipated possible problems and have made provisions for dealing with them. Shelter, Inc.'s openness to involving community representation in the overseeing of the project ensures a degree of community control in the facility's operation. In time, the new accommodations for people in transition will become a part of the community which neighbors can be proud of.

We hope that after your thoughtful consideration of all the issues involved, you will vote to approve the zoning changes that will enable the Prospect Street Congregational Church to carry on its mission under the auspices of Shelter, Inc.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ann Di Roberts M.S.W.
Sydney

Mary Ann DiRoberts; MSW
Director

David S. Sargent

David S. Sargent, M.D.
Medical Director

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Comm. from Mary Ann DiRoberts, Director &
David S. Sargent, Medical Director of Geri-
atric Service, Cambridge-Somerville Mental
Health & Retardation, in support of Shelter,
Inc.'s efforts to use the Prospect St. Church
as a shelter facility.

In City Council,

August 5, 1985

Placed on File