



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

**To** James L. Sullivan, City Manager                      **Date** November 20, 1974  
**From** James F. Reagan, Chief of Police                      **Reference**  
**Subject** Rape Prevention and Counselling Programs

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request concerning the City Council order relative to the progress made by the Cambridge Police Department regarding the crime of rape.

The following attached information prepared by the staff at the Cambridge Police Academy, is submitted for your consideration.

Progress reports will be submitted at regular intervals to your office, in order to keep all City officials fully informed of the activities of the department in this area.

Sincerely yours,

*James F. Reagan*  
Chief of Police

JFR/k

RECEIVED  
Nov 20 2 00 PM '74

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY MANAGER

RAPE PREVENTION AND COUNSELLING PROGRAMS  
WITHIN THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Cambridge Police Department has made and is continuing to make considerable progress in sensitizing police officers to the needs of rape victims and in training the officers to investigate and prosecute rape crimes effectively. Great progress has also been made toward developing rape prevention programs which are and will continue to be offered by the police to the community and in implementing ways to improve rape reporting.

All Cambridge police officers are required to attend a forty-hour Inservice Training Program each year, which is held at the Cambridge Police Academy. One course presented to the officers participating in the program focuses on the Massachusetts rape legislation. A second course designed to sensitize the officers to the problems of rape is also an important part of the curriculum. This second course is conducted by members of the Rape Crisis Center of Cambridge, an organization which is composed of volunteers, some of whom have gone through the trauma of being raped and are willing to present their feelings as victims to the officers. Included in their presentation are an introduction to the goals and functions of the Rape Crisis Center, an exploration of the feelings toward rape generally held by society, a discussion of the observations and experiences which members of the class and of the Rape Crisis Center have had in dealing with rape cases, and an analysis and demonstration of ways to counsel rape victims effectively.

One result of the rape crisis training course offered by the Rape Crisis Center has been the development of a rapport between members of the Cambridge Police Department and of the Center. This rapport has led to an understanding that both organizations are working toward the same goals, i.e. determining the most effective ways to counsel and offer aid to rape victims, to convict the criminal offenders, and to prevent rapes from occurring. To accomplish these goals, cooperation between the Cambridge Police Department and Rape Crisis Center in handling rape cases has been occurring; the Police Department has referred rape victims to the Center for counselling and the Center members have effectively counselled these victims. On occasion, women who have been raped have gone to the Rape Crisis Center for help, not intending to report the crime to the police, for various reasons; however, through the efforts and encouragement of the Center, many of these women have subsequently reported the rape to the police.

In addition to the rape crisis training course offered as part of the Inservice Training Program, selected officers from Cambridge and surrounding communities, who will become members of special Rape Prevention and Prosecution Units of their police departments, received thirty-two hours of rape crisis training in a special program which was developed by the Cambridge Police Academy. This Rape Crisis Training Program was designed and implemented on October 29, 30, 31, and November 1 in accordance with the Massachusetts House of Representatives Act 6392, which establishes a system for the improved reporting, prosecution, and prevention of the crime of

rape, and for improved counselling of rape victims.

The Rape Prevention and Prosecution Units will investigate and prosecute cases of rape, counsel victims of these crimes, and supervise and conduct rape prevention efforts in the community. To accomplish the general goal of training officers to function effectively in these units, the officers were given instruction in the areas of the psychological and social needs of the rape victim; the skills needed to counsel victims, to investigate incidents of rape, and to prosecute rape cases; and the ways in which the police can work with the community to improve the reporting of rape and rape prevention efforts.

The instructors for the Rape Crisis Training Program, selected from outside community resources and from the Cambridge Police Department, possessed social, legal, medical, and law enforcement expertise in handling rape crises, and encouraged the officers to view the crime of rape from a variety of perspectives. Members of the Cambridge Hospital Psychiatric, Gynecology, Emergency Services, and Social Services Departments discussed with the officers the community social service agencies to which victims of rape can be referred, the need for referrals, and the importance of the medical examination for the rape victim. The Cambridge Rape Crisis Center offered a full-day program which consisted of a sharing of experiences in dealing with rape cases and the practicing of counselling techniques through role-play. An assistant district attorney from Middlesex Superior Court discussed the interpretation of the new rape legislation and its effect on the prosecution of rape cases.

The Cambridge Police Academy will continue to sensitize officers to the problems of rape in future programs and courses. A course of instruction in rape crisis training similar to that described above for the Inservice Training Program will be offered in the Recruit Training Program. In addition, the Cambridge Police Department is encouraging officers to prepare and present rape prevention programs for the community. The officers participating in the Rape Crisis Training Program previewed a film and slide show which dealt with rape prevention and were provided with written materials which will be distributed to community organizations. Also, the Crime Prevention Unit has and, along with the Rape Prevention and Prosecution Unit, will continue to offer lectures to local colleges, community agencies, and task force meetings on the subject of rape prevention during the coming year.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL AND WELFARE  
1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Telephone 354-2020

November 21, 1974

TO: Mr. James L. Sullivan, City Manager  
FROM: James B. Hartgering, M.D., Commissioner *JBH*  
SUBJECT: Cambridge Hospital Protocol for Rape Cases

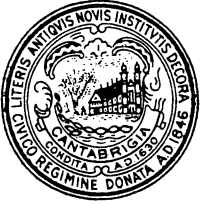
In response to the request made by Councillor Ackermann,  
the following information is provided:

1) Medical Protocol for Handling Cases Appearing in EW

Each patient is seen by a licensed gynecologist,  
and appropriate examinations are made. Prophylactic  
treatment is given for possible venereal disease.  
If the patient is not already on an effective birth  
control regime, hormones are provided which will pre-  
vent pregnancy.

2) All patients are asked if they want to talk to  
someone, and, if they can be persuaded to do so,  
they are seen immediately by someone from psychiatry,  
and eventual referral to social service for follow-  
up would be made.

3) All cases are reported to the police.



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
JAMES L. SULLIVAN  
City Manager

November 25, 1974

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed per your request are reports from both the Chief of Police and the Commissioner of Health, Hospital and Welfare regarding rape prevention and rape intervention.

Very truly yours,

James L. Sullivan  
City Manager

JLS/mbf

Agenda # 9

553

Report from the Chief of Police and the  
Comm. of Health re: rape prevention and rape  
intervention.

In City Council,

November 25, 1974

*- Placed on File -*