

The Cambridge Food Pantry Network

11 Inman Street • Cambridge, MA 02139 • (617) 868-2900

Councilor Katherine Triantafillou
Councilor Tim Toomey
Councilor Kathleen Born
Councilor Jonathan Myer

August 29, 1994

1994 AUG 31 PM 1:18

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dear Councilors:

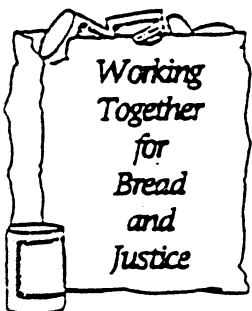
On behalf of the Cambridge Food Pantry Network, and its member organizations and programs, which currently feed and serve more than 1,500 households each month at food pantries, I am again stating our willingness to work cooperatively and quickly to establish an affordable, accessible food store/pharmacy in Cambridgeport or Riverside which would meet the needs of the thousands of neighborhood residents who have low and moderate incomes and who are unable to purchase their groceries or prescription drugs at affordable prices at other neighborhood locations.

The Cambridge Food Pantry Network is willing to involve its membership and those who turn to us for assistance in efforts to **site** a competitive, full-service food store and pharmacy, to find an experienced **developer** and **manager** for such a project, to assist in advocating for **financial** help in capitalizing land purchase, construction/rehab and inventory/equipment purchases, and to work with the city to explore **short term and long term subsidies, transportation assistance** and other forms of assistance which may be needed by neighborhood residents to help meet their nutritional needs. We also remain committed to finding developers and managers who will guarantee **Cambridge hiring** and who will support **union** contracts for construction and all full and part-time employment.

The members of the Cambridge Food Pantry Network need your help and access to the information which you have already gathered if we are to have any hope of success.

You have all made frequent mention of various supermarket chains that were prepared to build a supermarket in Cambridgeport or Riverside. Could you please provide us with a list of these supermarket chains and their contact persons who have made such a commitment?

You have all made frequent mention of other sites available in Cambridgeport other than Memorial Drive. Could you provide me with such a list of sites and the contact persons for each site that you have spoken to. I am aware of the former Ford site (I have heard that there are neighborhood groups that would favor affordable housing on that site) -- who owns the site and who might I talk to. I am aware of University Park (I have heard that MIT and developers have no willingness to site a store in that area) -- who are the contact people you have spoken to at University Park?



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- Empower people in need
 - Advocate for new laws and regulations that will help hungry people
 - Expand public awareness of hunger and its root causes
 - Feed the hungry

Regarding the Memorial Drive site, our only hope of developing that site would be an eminent domain land taking (I have heard that the cost of that land taking would be in excess of \$20 million dollars) -- are each of you prepared to spend Cambridge tax dollars to begin such a land taking by hiring the necessary professionals to discover land values? How much of an expenditure would you commit to for this land taking?

Now that all of you have rejected the Stop and Shop proposal as too large (as proposed its footprint was the approximate size of the Mt. Auburn street Star Market), what size do each of you feel is appropriate and necessary to site a competitive, full-service food store and pharmacy?

The Cambridge Food Pantry Network is prepared to work with each of you. I will be present at the September 12 City Council meeting, but I hope to speak to each of you before that meeting and I would appreciate receiving the requested information before that date so it can be reviewed by our members. In addition, I would be willing to set up a special meeting so that the four of you could discuss your intended course of action with the Food Pantry Network. I would hope that each of you would accept this invitation and that such a joint meeting could be held before the end of September.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Gerald Bergman
Coordinator

cc. City Clerk - to be made an official part of the Council communication for 9/12/94
Members of the Cambridge Food Pantry Network
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL THROUGH THE CITY CLERK

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RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

S-374
Consent Communication #16

A comm. was received from the Cambridge
Food Pantry Network. re: establishing
an Affordable , accessible food store/pharmacy
in Cambridgeport and Riverside Neighborhoods

In City Council September 12, 1994

Placed on file