

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Chief Anthony G. Paolillo

DATE: April 28, 1989

FROM: Sergeant Steven Williams

REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: Security at War Memorial

Sir:

At approximately 4:00PM on Sunday April 23rd an Armed Robbery (Handgun) occurred at The War Memorial Building cashier's desk (see attached file 89-3515). As a result of this robbery City Council Order # 26 was issued.

On Friday April 28th I met with Donna Cameron who is the Recreation Activities Manager and is in charge of the personnel at The War Memorial Building. We discussed the incident and she stated that she believes the suspect had an inside knowledge of the operations in the building. She has related this information to C.I.D. and they are investigating.

We discussed possible security measures that could be implemented. She stated that The Recreation Department is already in the process of having the cashier's booth secured and enclosed by plexiglass and having an alarm installed. She stated that she did not know how long it would be before this is in place but hoped it would be accomplished within a few months. She stated that she was looking for any assistance the Police Department could give in the interim.

I determined that the building is open from 5:30PM to 8:30PM on weeknights, from 9:00AM to 4:30PM of Saturday and from 12:00noon to 4:30PM on Sunday. There are two workers behind the cashier's desk at most times and two male workers roving the building. Currently most of the monies taken in have been kept at the cashier's desk although sometimes it is removed to a locked closet in another area.

I suggested the following to Ms. Cameron to possibly prevent this incident from occurring again:

- 1) Make more frequent trips with cash to the locked closet so that there would be less cash at the desk.
- 2) Possibly place a sign at the desk stating that the attendant does not have more than \$20 at the desk (This would possibly dissuade any person who might "case " the location prior to a robbery attempt)
- 3) Have one of the male workers spend more time at the desk area as opposed to roving the building.
- 4) Have marked police cruisers take their calls from just outside the door (Cambridge Street side) at irregular intervals. This would give a police presence and would prevent anyone from observing a pattern of that presence.
- 5) Have uniformed officers occasionally check at the cashier's desk to see if all is well.

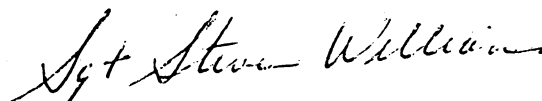
The robbery on April 23rd was the only robbery that has occurred at the War Memorial and other than a breaking and entering last year there has been no other trouble there.

Ms. Cameron is very pleased that The Police Department has taken an interest in security there as a result of the incident and understands that a continuous police presence is virtually impossible. She would be very satisfied if, on occasion, a marked cruiser could park on Cambridge Street to deter any would be robbers.

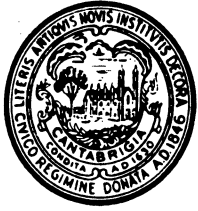
Ms. Cameron mentioned that the attendant at the time of the robbery was very shaken up by the incident. I checked with our Crime Prevention Unit and Rich Severi stated that they have a videotape that shows how to handle a commercial robbery and how to cope with it. I suggested to Ms. Cameron that she make arrangements to have her personnel view this video as it may be of some assistance.

I would recommend that a random assignment of patrol vehicles be made so that police presence could be observed. A marked vehicle could take calls from this location randomly for short periods of time (10-15 minutes) and also check in at the desk. I believe Ms. Cameron would be very pleased if this could be accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sgt Steven Williams".

Sergeant Steven Williams
Youth-Vice-Narcotics



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 8, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 43 regarding temporary security for workers at the War Memorial Pool following a recent armed robbery at the facility, I submit the attached report from the Police Department.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 9

S-346

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 43 on
temporary security for workers at the War
Memorial Pool.

In City Council,

May 8, 1989

5-8-89

Placed on file.