



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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April 28, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

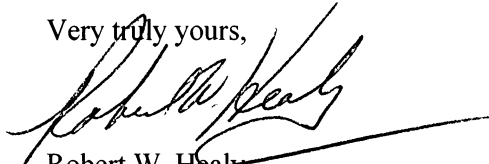
In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 03-16, regarding a report on providing technical support to the Agassiz area during the development and construction by Lesley University, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein reports the following:

Lesley University presented its 2002 Town Gown report to the Planning Board on January 21, 2003. In its report the university stated it has approximately 1400 undergraduate students, about two-thirds of whom are full time, and 1200 graduate students who are mostly part-time. The university owns 32 buildings, including the entire Porter Exchange building, as well as the vacant parcel across Mass. Avenue from it. In 2002 the university also purchased 815 Somerville Avenue and sold 10 Sacramento Street.

Lesley University has no current construction projects and is in the process of preparing a facilities and long-term master plan for its campus facilities. As part of its meeting with the Planning Board, the university said that it anticipates finalizing its planning analysis in the fall, at which time it will report back to the Board and to the various neighborhood groups. The university has already met several times with the Agassiz Neighborhood Council and the Porter Square Neighborhood Association, as well as with an ad hoc group of Agassiz and Porter Square neighbors.

The Community Development Department has been working with an Agassiz-North Yard Working Group, with participants from the city, Harvard and the Agassiz neighborhood on issues concerning Harvard University development in the North Yard, along Mass. Avenue near the Law School, and in the Agassiz neighborhood generally. As Lesley's plans become firmer, it may be helpful to include them in the monthly Agassiz-North Yard Working Group meetings. At that time we would also expect Lesley to reach out to the Porter Square neighbors if construction plans affect that part of the city.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

S-155

Consent Agenda #2

Awaiting Report Item Number 03-16, regarding a report on providing technical support to the Agassiz area during the development and construction by Lesley University.

In City Council April 28, 2003

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