



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

June 4, 1990

WHEREAS: The attached May 29, 1990 letter to Councillor Cyr (a copy was directed to the entire Council) from John F. Nobora, Director of The Salvation Army's Shelter/Day Drop-in Center at 402 Massachusetts Avenue deserves full and immediate response. To allow the homeless drop-in center to be forced to close its doors during July and August because the budget for the center will be exhausted by June 30, 1990 due to the 25% increase in the number of people it has served thus far in 1990 over prior years would be unconscionable. And,

WHEREAS: In this crisis, there are no villains, only victims who need the continued positive response and assistance which The Salvation Army's center provides, in the words of the center's director, " To close the center for these two months would be a heinous crime " ; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager speak immediately with heads of appropriate city departments and Mr. Nobora for the purpose of finding an available \$12,000 in city funds for transmittal to The Salvation Army in order to bridge the gap and keep the center operative throughout the entire summer. Further, as the urgency of this situation to the life of Cambridge speaks for itself, the City Manager is requested to report back to the Council on this prior to or, assuredly, no later than June 25, 1990.

(ATTACHMENT)

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City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL
June 4, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

- WHEREAS: The attached May 29, 1990 letter to Councillor Cyr (a copy was directed to the entire City Council) from John F. Nobora, Director of The Salvation Army's Shelter/Day Drop-in Center at 402 Massachusetts Avenue deserves full and immediate response. To allow the homeless drop-in center to be forced to close its doors during July and August because the budget for the center will be exhausted by June 30, 1990 due to the 25% increase in the number of people it has served thus far in 1990 over prior years would be unconscionable; and
- WHEREAS: In this crisis, there are no villains, only victims who need the continued positive response and assistance which The Salvation Army's center provides, in the words of the center's director, "To close the center for these two months would be a heinous crime"; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager speak immediately with heads of appropriate city departments and Mr. Nobora for the purpose of finding an available \$12,000 in city funds for transmittal to The Salvation Army in order to bridge the gap and keep the center operative throughout the entire summer; and be it further
- ORDERED: As the urgency of this situation to the life of Cambridge speaks for itself, the City Manager is requested to report back to the City Council on this prior to or, assuredly, no later than June 25, 1990.

In City Council June 4, 1990.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.



MAJOR RALPH E. THOMAS
CORPS COMMANDING
OFFICER

The Salvation Army

(INCORPORATED)

CAMBRIDGE CITADEL/SOMMERVILLE CORPS
402 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 647
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139-0647
TELEPHONE (617) 547-3400

May 29, 1990

Councilman Ed Cyr
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

Dear Councilman Cyr:

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday to discuss the Salvation Army's homeless drop-in center. As you know, the Salvation Army has carried the entire financial burden of providing services to the City's homeless men and women in the center, since its beginning.

This year, with the enormous growth in the City's homeless population we are providing meals and services to 25% more people than prior years. The Salvation Army's annual budget for the homeless drop-in center will be depleted by June 30, 1990 because of this. This situation is due solely to our bringing more services to more people. Our administrative and staffing costs have stayed the same. Salvation Army funds for this program will not be available again until September.

I am writing to appeal to you and the members of the City Council for financial support from the City of Cambridge in the amount of \$12,000 to continue to operate the drop-in center through July and August. Many of the City's homeless we serve have serious mental illnesses and substance abuse problems. To close the center for these two months would be a heinous crime.

Attached is a list of services provided by the Salvation Army to the homeless, and in closing, I would like to extend to you and all City Council Members an invitation to visit our facility and observe the provision of services firsthand. I will be contacting you to make the arrangements.

Thank you once again for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Nobora
Director

cc: City Council Members



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MAJOR RALPH E. THOMAS
CORPS COMMANDING
OFFICER

The Salvation Army

(INCORPORATED)

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Emergency
Shelter

Adult Drop-In
Center

The Salvation Army at 402 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA operates an emergency shelter for men, and a drop-in center for homeless men and woman of all ages. A variety of services are available in both programs. Clients can avail themselves of those services in a safe clean environment without cost.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

The emergency shelter serves twenty homeless men each evening. They must be drug and alcohol free when they arrive at six p.m. A full course meal is provided. (During the winter months the number of beds increase to 35). Guests leave the next morning at 8 a.m. after breakfast, and can come back and stay in the drop-in center during the day between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm in the winter, and between 10:00am and 2:00pm during the summer. (Closed Saturdays, open 3:00-5:00pm Sundays). The services of the drop-in center are explained further below.

A large percentage of our men have substance abuse problems or are mentally ill. Many are veterans. Some are the working poor. We have short term and long term beds. The short term is a four night stay. Long term beds are given to clients who are waiting for substance abuse treatment programs, halfway houses, or are working and saving towards permanent housing. There are other special circumstances whereby someone may have a long-term bed. A social worker on the premises provides full case management including counseling, advocacy, and referrals for all clients. Substance abuse education classes are offered nightly. Men in recovery with substance abuse problems are required to attend these meetings as a part of their extension plan.

Full time counselors are on duty nightly in the shelter. Showers, telephone, personal hygiene items, toiletries and clothing are provided free. Career counseling, seminars, and workshops are available. Topics range from "How to locate permanent housing" to "AIDS prevention". Quiet time in The Salvation Army Chapel can also be made available upon request.

Emergency Shelter
Drop-In Center

ADULT DROP-IN CENTER

The Drop-in center is available to any homeless man or woman during the hours listed on the previous page. Along with showers, toiletries, new clothes and laundry facilities, a hot meal is provided for breakfast and lunch. Special services are also provided on the premises by the agencies and professionals listed below:

<u>Agency/Provider</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>When Available</u>
Veterans Admin	Counseling benefits elig., referrals to treatment programs, detox, mental health services, housing search	Every Thursday 9-3pm
Social Security	Benefits elig., check tracking referrals	Second and fourth Thursday of each month from 9-2pm
Health Care for	Doctor/Dentist Medical S.W., providing full health care services and medical counseling, free meds can be arranged	Clinic Services daily, Dentist by appointment
Clinical Psychologist	Clinical testing For Mass Rehab and Social Security eligibility	By appointment

Spiritual counseling available upon request

The Salvation Army is committed to assisting all disadvantaged people with quality services in our emergency shelter and drop-in center. Counselors are always available in both programs to provide support, advocacy, and referrals to outside services such as detoxification centers and emergency medical or psychiatric treatment.

Order # 57

F-296

Councillor Walsh re: closing of the
Salvation Army's Shelter/Day Drop in Center.

In City Council,

June 4, 1990

ORDER ADOPTED