

WHEREAS: CEOC received one of the early demonstration grants from the federal government to open the Cambridgeport and East Cambridge neighborhood health centers, CEOC and the "Neighborhood Health Stations Crisis Coalition" understood and identified in the early 70's, that low income people without health insurance were forced to utilize the Cambridge Hospital emergency room for their medical care. CEOC and the Coalition were ahead of their time, joining with the early health clinic movement that advocated for low-income uninsured people who would benefit from health care in their neighborhoods, with staff who spoke their language. These centers have become major primary health care sites managed by the Cambridge Health Alliance; and

WHEREAS: CEOC continued its focus on locally accessible health care when as the lead agency, CEOC coordinated the successful efforts of "Cambridge Health Advocates for Teens" (CHAT) to open the Teen Health Center at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin high school, one of the first to open in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS: CEOC has offered the "Know Your Body" sexuality education program in the Cambridge Public Schools for over 25 years to over 23,000 pre-teens and teens, providing information and promotion of healthy adolescent behaviors; and

WHEREAS: In addition to housing and health care, CEOC has played a leadership role in hunger relief in Cambridge. CEOC was the major organizer of the passage of the Cambridge Hunger Referendum in 1989 that established city funding for the Cambridge Food Pantry Network for its emergency food distribution activities, though community-based pantries throughout the city; and

WHEREAS: Forty years later with the number of people in poverty increasing, we witnessed a presidential campaign in which neither candidate ever uttered the word poverty. It has taken the natural disaster in New Orleans to have government refocus on the impacts of poverty in our nation. Daily, CEOC participants through their experiences and unique stories show that they cannot realize the promise of America – no matter how hard they work and play by the rules they cannot achieve the "American Dream." For individuals and families living in poverty, the "American Dream" is America's forgotten promise; and

WHEREAS: Martin Luther King, Jr. said over 40 years ago at the time of the historical signing of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act, the War On Poverty, "This is America's opportunity to bridge the gulf between the haves and the have nots. And the question is whether America will do it. There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is we now have the techniques and the resources to get rid of poverty. But the real question is whether we have the will;" and

WHEREAS: CEOC, on its 40th Anniversary, re-commits itself to the work of realizing the vision of the War On Poverty for Cambridge's low-income and working poor individuals and families and building a bridge of opportunity for those who are working hard and still live without; and

RESOLVED: That, this City Council encourage all Cambridge residents to participate and contribute to CEOC's 40th Anniversary Event in order to support the critical work of CEOC on behalf of Cambridge low-income and working poor individuals and families and proclaim October 28, 2005 as CEOC Day in the City of Cambridge; and be it further.

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to CEOC on behalf of the entire City Council.

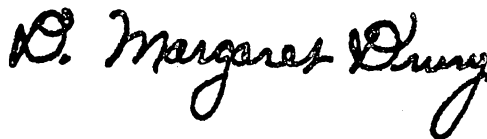
In City Council September 26, 2005.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

R-34.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 26, 2005

MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc. (CEOC), Cambridge's designated anti-poverty agency, was incorporated on April 16, 1965 as part of the federal "War on Poverty" and is celebrating its 40th Anniversary at an event on October 28, 2005, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: CEOC is working even harder than ever to provide direct services to over 10,000 families and households, over 15,000 individuals, and help to empower the Cambridge community through organizing initiatives and public policy advocacy to challenge poverty's structural causes and impacts; and

WHEREAS: President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed his War On Poverty "not as a struggle simply to support people, to make them dependent on the generosity of others [but] to give people a chance. It is an effort to allow them to develop and use their capacities... so that they can share, as others share, in the promise of this nation." He called for a war, "Not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and above all to eliminate it;" and

WHEREAS: CEOC, over its forty-year history, has taken this original charge of the War On Poverty very seriously and has a rich history of leadership in this war through community organizing initiatives for affordable housing, accessible health care, and hunger relief, which have resulted in successful public policy changes that eliminated the causes of poverty. CEOC has played a critical role many times in establishing long term positive change for low-income and working-poor Cambridge residents; and

WHEREAS : CEOC, for the first twenty-five years, involved itself in creating stable affordable housing for low-income residents through the Cambridge Rent Control Law which helped to maintain a diverse and mixed income community in Cambridge. Today CEOC continues its public policy efforts for affordable housing by submitting and seeking passage of state legislation that will preserve and maintain expiring use buildings as affordable housing; and

RESOLUTION #34

Cognizant of Cambridge Economic
Opportunity Committee (CEOC)

event celebrating its 40th

Anniversary on October 28, 2005,

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Royal

Sonesta Hotel, 5 Cambridge

Parkway, Cambridge and

Cambridge proclaims October 28,

2005 as CEOC Day.

Mayor Sullivan and entire

membership

In City Council

September 26, 2005

ORDER ADOPTED