

In Council packets 6/18/98



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

June 12, 1998

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

To The Honorable, The City Council:

I am writing to provide you with the latest update on the proposal to redevelop Neville Manor into a new 100-bed nursing home and a renovated 71 unit affordable assisted living facility.

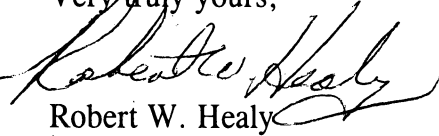
As you know, there was a constructive meeting of the City Council's Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals on May 12th. At that meeting, John O'Brien, Commissioner of Health for the City, and I presented the case for the redevelopment plan, and explained the options available to us. We also heard from many interested and concerned citizens at this meeting. The Subcommittee meeting was one of many meetings that representatives of the Cambridge Public Health Commission and Neville Community Partners have conducted with Cambridge citizens over the past eight months. We have been encouraged by the significant support that we have received for affordable nursing home and assisted living services in general and for this project in particular.

At the same time, we have heard the concerns expressed by the Water Board and others regarding environmental and open space issues. While I am certain that there will be no negative impact on water quality as a result of this project, I understand that others, including Secretary of Environmental Affairs Trudy Coxe, have concerns. In order to obtain clarity on these matters, John O'Brien and I will be meeting with Secretary Coxe this Tuesday.

In light of the concerns raised about the project and the tight timeline for achieving supporting votes from City Council and the state legislature, we have chosen not to submit our proposed home rule petition to City Council in the coming weeks as originally planned. Instead, we will attempt to obtain answers to the questions raised and bring the matter back to City Council later this summer or early in the fall.

I want to reiterate here that I believe the proposal to construct a new 100-bed nursing home and to renovate the existing building for affordable assisted living is in the best interest of the City of Cambridge and its citizens. I hope that our proposed delay in consideration of this matter will afford each of you the opportunity to have any concerns alleviated.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

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Update on the development of Neville
Manor into 100 bed Nursing Home and 71
unit assisted living facility.

June 15, 1998