



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER,
*Interim Assistant City Manager
for Community Development*

MEMO

MARY FLYNN,
*Deputy Director for
Community Development*

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: ^{SMS} Susan Schlesinger, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Re: Council Order #18, dated 3/7/94 RE: Feasibility of placing a Police Department service center either on the parking lot at Comeau Field on Rindge Avenue, or on the land adjacent to the car barn on Massachusetts Avenue at the corner of Cameron Avenue.

Date: June 21, 1994

Parking Lot at Comeau Field

For a Police Department service center for North Cambridge to be located in the parking lot at Comeau Field on Rindge Avenue, the following issues should be noted:

- The land is City of Cambridge land, used as a parking lot for Comeau Field, Russell Field and the MDC pool;
- The #83 MBTA bus presently uses this lot as a turnaround. There is no other reasonable place for this bus to turn around. This bus is too heavy to go over the existing Alewife Bridge. The new Alewife Bridge (which will be able to accommodate the bus) is not likely to be completed before 1995. At the time of the completion of the bridge, the extension of this bus route to the Fresh Pond Mall is possible, and will probably be a recommendation of the Railroad Safety Task Force.
- The land is presently zoned Open Space. Under the City of Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, open space may be used for a police or fire station, provided that the public notification and review process outlined in section 4.25 of the Zoning Ordinance is satisfactorily completed. This process includes:
 - A report to the Planning Board by the agency proposing the use;
 - A public hearing by the Planning Board concerning the use;
 - A report filed by the Planning Board concerning the conveyance, including their recommendation and any conditions.

Land Adjacent to the Car Barn on Massachusetts Avenue

For a service center on the land adjacent to the car barn on Massachusetts Avenue at the corner of Cameron Avenue, the following issues should be noted:

- The status of the land regarding ownership and responsibility for any hazardous waste on the site is presently in discussion between the City and the MBTA;
- The land is in the Business A-2 zone, in which a fire or police station is an allowed use.

Service Center Siting Criteria

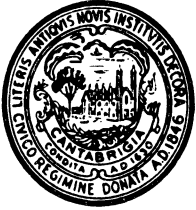
According to recent discussions with Superintendent Murphy of the Police Department, there are a number of criteria that are important to the siting of service center for it to be successful, including:

- Visibility - A great deal of the value of a service center is from the sense that it creates a visible police presence in the neighborhood;
- Ease and Safety of Access - It should be both convenient and safe for residents to come by the service center, whether on foot or in a car;
- Connection to the Neighborhood - the value of the service center increases if it is located in an area of perceived need for police services - and where people are likely to be.

Next Steps

The location in the parking lot at Comeau Field should be checked with the Police Department against the criteria of visibility, ease and safety of pedestrian access, and visibility and connection to the neighborhood. The parking lot may be able to accommodate the present use as a bus turnaround along with the service center, depending on the siting of the trailer. This location must also be acceptable to the Human Services Department in their operation of Russell Field and Comeau Field, as well as the MBTA for their continued use of the lot as a turnaround.

The location at the lot adjacent to the car barns offers an acceptable location for vehicular and pedestrian access, and, depending on the actual trailer design, i.e. windows, relation to the street, siting and visibility. This site should be checked against the criteria for connection to the neighborhood - area of perceived need. The use of the land adjacent to the car barn on Massachusetts Avenue for a Police Department service center may need a contractual agreement between the MBTA and City for this use. This use may also require determining whether any hazardous waste risk exists on the site.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 27, 1994

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 3, regarding the feasibility of placing a Police service center in North Cambridge, please find attached a response from Susan Schlesinger, Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
Three regarding the feasibility of
placing a Police service center in North
Cambridge.

for original see 1994
City Managers Request
66.

In City Council,

June 27, 1994

Report - Placed on
file and Referred
to Police Commissioner,
MBTA, Stabilization and
North Cambridge
Crime Task Force.
6/29/94 copy sent to
City Mgr. (du)