



City of Cambridge

17.

IN CITY COUNCIL
April 26, 1999

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: With all the chaos in Kosovo, a web site has been created to help the people of Kosovo locate their kin; and

WHEREAS: The web site has been created by Christos Canis and Michael Davon; and

WHEREAS: The web site can be accessed by human rights agencies to help Kosovar refugees to locate their families; and

WHEREAS: The site will be expanded as churches, media outlet and Internet services learn of its existence; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record applauding Christos Canis and Michael Davon for their creativity to use the super highway to unite families who have been split because of the conditions in Kosovo; and be it further

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

In City Council April 26, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councilman Grant Attilio

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Web site creator unite Kosovo kin

This is one problem that he handled through this technology."

of the constraints of a large agency, Davon was able to e site together in six days in Inman Square office.

site allows people to register refugees and their last known on. There is also a site for refugees to post their location in the United States and so they can be found by ees.

von said for security reasons the personal information ot be altered once it is ed in a file. But the location e refugee can be updated.

e Very Rev. Arthur Liolin,

icellor of the Albanian Orth-

Church in America, said

site is serving a vital need.

re are reports of young chil-

being taken to (Albanian

tal) Tirana who cannot lo-

their parents — who might

n camps in Macedonia, Mon-

egro or Albania or back in

Kosovo," he said. "We certainly endorse this kind of project."

Davon said the site can be accessed by human rights agencies processing and registering the hundreds of thousands of Kosovars who have fled their homeland for camps in Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania.

Davon said he expects the registry to expand as churches, media outlets and Internet services spread word of its existence.

An American Red Cross exploratory committee met yesterday to assess the role the Internet could play in tracing refugees — a job the Red Cross has been charged with since the inception of the Geneva Convention.

"What we're trying to do is determine if we can use the Internet for this very purpose," said Red Cross spokesman Darren Irby. "Clearly, we want to see if this is something that would be feasible and efficient in reuniting families."

Already, the office of the U.N.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW WE
LOST AND FOUND: Christos Canis, left, a translator, and Michael Davon, a designer, work on their site to help track Kosovar refugees.

High Commissioner for Refugees had logged into the site, Davon said.

"This is going to be a long-term problem," said Christos Canis, 28, of Quincy, an Albanian who has

done translation work for the Web site.

"I think this can reunite people and help them stay in contact with each other for however long it goes on."

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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Katherine wants order on attached

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
795 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139



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Consent Order #17

46212

Councillor Triantafillou re: applaud
Christos Canis and Michael Davon for
creating a web site to help Kosovar
refugees to locate their families.

In City Council April 26, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED