



City of Cambridge

33.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 1998

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

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record as congratulating the **City Manager** and **Deputy City Manager** for the very positive publicity around the **opening of the Frisoli Youth Center** in the March 9th issue of the Nation's Cities Weekly Publication which is the official publication of the National League of Cities.

In City Council March 16, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Frisoli Center Gives Cambridge Youth a Positive Place to Go

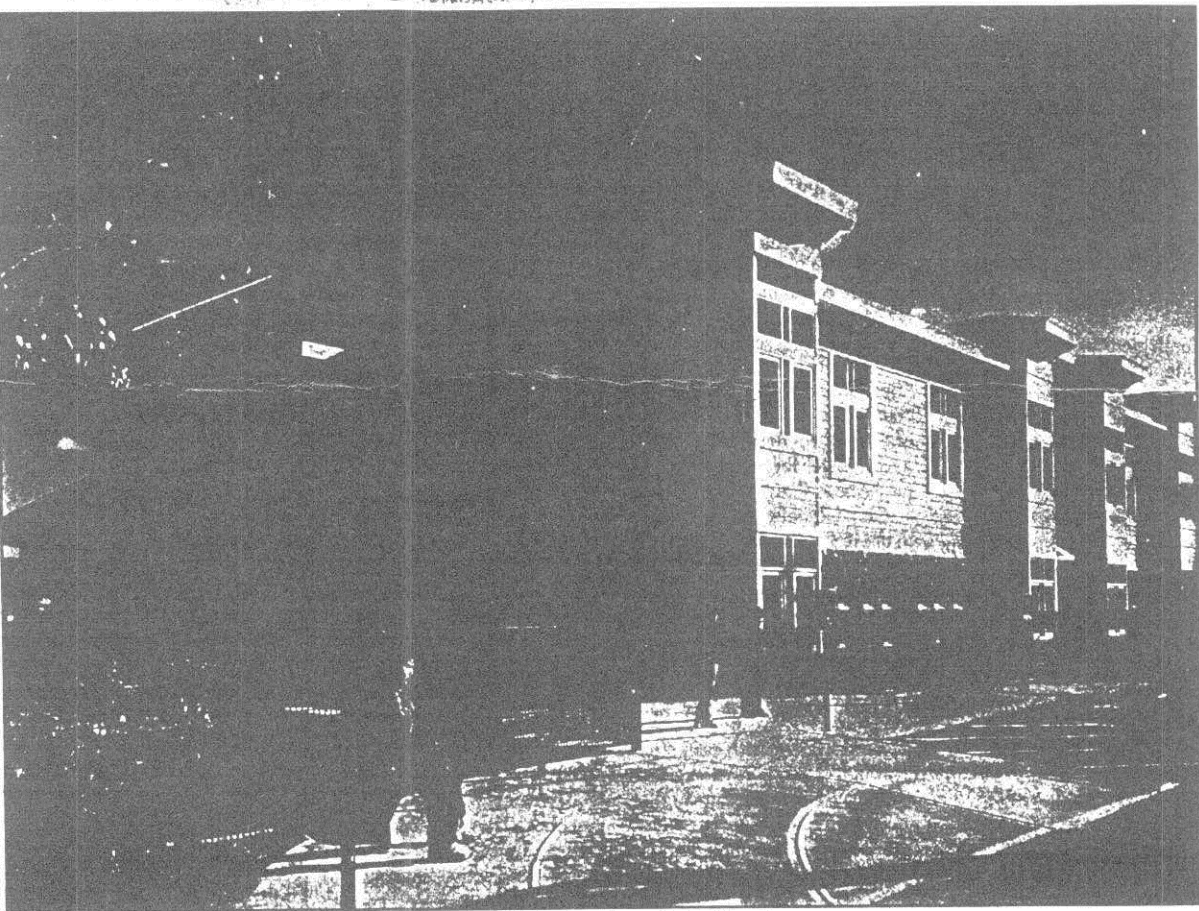
With the opening of the new Frisoli Youth Center last October, the children of East Cambridge, Mass. have a positive, supervised environment with an array of recreational and educational activities for after school hours and Saturdays.

Replacing rented rooms in a local church that served 25 to 30 participants a day, the new \$4 million center serves as many as 150 a day. One of five city youth centers, and the third involving new construction, the project demonstrates the continuing commitment of the city to responding to the need for expanded facilities for its youth.

The Frisoli center is situated on formerly underutilized tennis courts at the Harrington School/Donnelly Field Complex in a densely populated area. It is named for a former East Cambridge resident who served as the city's superintendent of schools and devoted many years to organizing youth sports programs.

The building was designed to blend in with the neighborhood, and its architecture is derived from the surrounding two- and three-story bay front housing units. The structure incorporates the bays, turreted corners and distinctive trim cornices of this classic Cambridge housing motif. The main entrance is in the rear, away from the street, out of respect to neighboring residents.

The 21,600-square-foot center includes a full gymnasium—one of the largest in the city. A mezzanine level containing a weight/aerobics room, computer room/career library, game room, TV lounge, multipurpose/kitchen area, conference room and office space overlooks the multi-story gym. A Head Start day care center,



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which fulfills the community's desire for such an amenity, is located on the first floor and has a distinct entrance.

In response to a community needs assessment, the center offers a multitude of programs—from nutrition and cooking classes in the demonstration kitchen, to homework assistance in the quiet study areas or on computers donated by local area businesses, to counseling and educational classes for older youth.

"Rather than being dominated by... athletics, the program is an all inclusive menu of services available to kids in the community, with an emphasis on education and the skills they need to succeed," notes Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, who served as project leader and led the four-year community planning process.

Stephen C. Christo, the center's director, credits the new facility for the capabilities to provide expanded programming. "From the beginning, we

surveyed school children about the activities they would participate in. People wanted more than just recreational space. We are able to offer the kids many more options than we could in our former space. The design is so open, it is very easy to maintain and supervise."

"The building is unique in its offerings of different types of opportunities for different kids at the same time. It is our hope that this center becomes the haven for kids in East Cambridge," said director of Recre-

ation Paul Ryder. That more than 450 youth center members signed on in its first month of operation makes this goal achievable.

"It is a good feeling for me to see this happen in the community in which I grew up," said Rossi. "I see the kids, and how happy they are to have a facility like this. That is the ultimate measure of success."

Details: Dianne Ludman Frank at (248) 644-3523

Mayer Duchay
Councillor Russell

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Immunity from page 1

councilman of Philadelphia. "There is nothing more chilling to open debate and clear pursuit of the public interest than the prospect of retaliatory lawsuits, laden with legal fees and time-consuming litigation. The unequivocal message of our nation's highest court on this matter will assure that our city halls and county courthouses are open forums for elected leaders to examine issues, discuss ideas and cast votes as envisioned by our founding fathers."

The case involved a lawsuit filed by the head of a city department who charged that a city budget resolution voted on by the council to eliminate the department was a form of administrative retaliation arising from other activities rather than a legislative act. It raised the issue of whether local government legislators are entitled to absolute immunity under Section 1983 when they vote on a municipal ordinance. The lower federal court had acknowledged that local legislators are entitled to absolute immunity for legislative acts, but held that proposing and voting for an ordinance can be deemed an administrative act (which is not immunized) if it "relate[s] to particular individuals or situations."

The case arose when the city council of Fall River, Massachusetts, voted on a budget resolution that eliminated the position of Janet Scott-Harris as Director of the City's Department of Health and Human Services. Scott-Harris sued under Section 1983, alleging that the ordinance which eliminated her position was proposed by the Mayor, Daniel Bogan, and a council member, Marilyn Roderick, in retaliation for Scott-Harris's having filed a complaint against another city employee who was a long time friend of Bogan and Roderick. Notwithstanding that the ordinance was approved by a 6-2 vote, both the U.S. district court and First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Bogan's and Roderick's motion to dismiss on the ground that they were entitled to legislative immunity. In the view of both courts, Bogan and Roderick were not entitled to absolute immunity, because the ordinance was an individually targeted administrative act and not a neutral legislative act incidentally resulting in the elimination of Scott-Harris' position.

The *amicus* brief NLC filed through the State and Local Legal Center argued that at the time of Section 1983's enactment it was a settled principle of common law that local legisla-

tors were entitled to absolute immunity for all discretionary actions having a legislative character. Moreover, absent such immunity, local legislators would be chilled in the performance of their duties and distracted by having to defend themselves from lawsuits. Furthermore, the denial of absolute immunity would deter other citizens from government service. Thus, the same considerations which prompted the Court to recognize in earlier cases that federal, state, and regional legislators are entitled to absolute immunity require that local legislators receive absolute immunity as well.

In its opinion, the court agreed: "Absolute immunity for local legislators under Section 1983 finds support not only in history, but also in reason...The rationales for according absolute immunity to federal, state, and regional legislators apply with equal force to local legislators." Indeed, the court made clear that immunity at the municipal level might be even more important than at the state or federal level: "The time and energy required to defend against a lawsuit are of particular concern at the local level, where the part-time citizen-legislator remains commonplace...And the threat of liability may significantly deter service in local government, where prestige and pecuniary rewards may pale in comparison to the threat of civil liability."

What is a legislative act? Differences between firing and terminating an employee.

The NLC brief further argued that court of appeals' test, which focuses on the breadth of the impact of the legislation, is insupportable. Local legislators act in a legislative capacity whenever they propose and vote on legislation, regardless of whether the legislation applies to a narrow subject or limited number of people. The policy concerns which underlie legislative immunity apply to all legislation irrespective of its scope.

In its decision, the Supreme Court said that whether an act is legislative "turns on the nature of the act, rather than the motive or intent of the official performing it." The court's opinion made clear that absolute immunity would mean little if a jury could look behind every vote to question a councilmember's motive. The court specifically determined that the acts in question - both by the councilmember and the mayor - were legislative. The court said that the councilmember's vote on the ordinance was "quintes-

entially legislative," while the mayor's introduction and signing of the ordinance was formally legislative, even though he was an executive official: they "were integral steps in the legislative process."

The court said the ordinance reflected a "discretionary, policy-making decision implicating budgetary priorities of the city and the services the city provides to its constituents. Moreover, it involved the termination of a position, which, unlike the hiring or firing of a particular employee, may have prospective implications that reach well beyond the particular occupant of the office."

"Today's ruling is a clear and welcome acknowledgment that elected municipal officials shouldn't have to worry about being taken to court for trying to meet their responsibilities to vote on public policy issues and propose legislation as representatives of their community"

— NLC President Brian J. O'Neill
Councilmember, Philadelphia

ISTEA from page 1

the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, known as ISTEA II or S. 1173. The budget agreement came in two parts. First, at the beginning of the week, the Senate agreed on greater funding for highways and ignored transit funding, which traditionally received a twenty percent of any highway funding increase. After pressure from local governments, transit interests, and environmental groups, transit also received an increase in funding.

The highway funding agreement is approximately \$26 billion over the life of the bill. With two-thirds of the funding split among all of the ISTEA programs. The remaining third will be spent on four demonstration projects: the Appalachian Roads Commission including Corridor H, NAFTA trade corridors, a donor state bonus and urban density areas—although details on this part are not clear. The transit increase is \$5 billion over six years.

For transit, even though the agreement provides for more new spending, it does not ensure that they money is available. NLC President Brian O'Neill stated, "I applaud the Senate leadership for coming through for more transit funding. However, it is only the first step. We need to ensure that anti-transit amendments such as the minimum allocation amendment are defeated." Senators Senators Allard (R-Colo.), Johnson (D-S.D.), Levin (D-Mich.), and Thomas (R-Wyo.) are introducing a Minimum Allocation amendment, which will destroy the transit program.

Minimum allocation is a way to distribute federal transit funding from its current distribution method, which is based on need to existing transit systems and to new systems. Under a minimum allocation scenario, states—not local governments—receive a minimum amount of gas tax revenue that their state contributes to the transit trust fund. This does not provide enough funds to states with existing transit systems and spreads the funding too thinly to start a new system. It is important to note that under minimum allocation the money goes to states and not local governments, and even with the increased highway funding—states can spend transit funds on highways.

Although reauthorizing the law is one of NLC's highest priorities, at least two other amendments could adversely affect cities and towns:

The first amendment, offered by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Ok) would permit states to take Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds intended for local governments to meet federal clean air standards to use for state highway expansion. Under current law, CMAQ allows regions to fund projects that will improve air quality—and will allow regions to meet mandated federal clean air standards and avoid EPA sanctions. By allowing CMAQ funds to be spent on building highways, cities would be in greater jeopardy of failing EPA's new clean air standards.

The second amendment, authored by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Ka) would eliminate the Enhancement Program. Under current law, this program provides economic and environmental benefits to metropolitan regions. The program provides funding for recreational trails, bike paths, and other transportation alternatives important to local governments. This amendment would allow state Departments of Transportation to receive a waiver from the federal government without consulting local governments to eliminate the program.

In related action, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Ok) secured unanimous agreement to codify EPA's implementation schedule for the revised Clean Air Act standards promulgated last summer. The amendment, the result of a compromise with EPA Administrator Carol Browner, would authorize EPA to gather additional data on fine particles (PM2.5) over the next five years, and subsequent to this effort, authorize an additional three years for areas out of compliance with the new standard to come into attainment. Adoption of the amendment into law would eliminate any question as to EPA's authority to extend the compliance time frame so far into the future. In addition, the Inhofe amendment would insure that EPA pays 100 percent of the cost of monitoring (for both the equipment and data collection initiatives) for fine particles.

ISTEA will be on the Senate floor at least until the middle of March. The Senate began debate ten days ago on the legislation. When the current law expired last September, Congress enacted a temporary extension to ensure funding for roads, transit, bridge, and other surface transportation programs through May 1st. At that point, states and localities would no longer be able to obligate transportation funds.

NLC Convenes Second Symposium on World Class Local Economies

by Bill Barnes and Jim Brooks

NLC will hold its second Symposium on "Achieving World Class Local Economies" in Orlando, Fla. on May 17-19, 1998.

This major conference for local leaders, hosted by Orlando Mayor and NLC Past President Glenda Hood, will focus on strategies to create local economies that are "world class": that is, they are competitive in the global marketplace and contribute to all residents' quality of life.

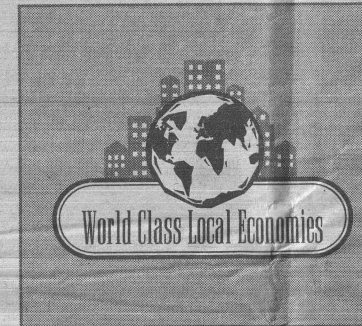
Confirmed featured speakers include Neal Peirce, author of "Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World," and E.J. Dionne, author of "Why Americans Hate Politics." Both are also syndicated columnists whose articles have appeared in the pages of *The Weekly*.

The conference will build on the success of the first Sym-

posium, held in Columbus, Ohio in October 1996. This event will focus on the opportunities presented to local officials and other leaders by three interrelated challenges of economic competitiveness: jobs and business growth, economic opportunity for all, and effective governance.

A special theme of this Symposium will be the international dimensions of all local economies. Plenary sessions and panels are scheduled on how regional economies can effectively connect with opportunities elsewhere; how local leaders can address the combinations of "Economic insecurity, local economies and globalization"; and how to develop "Regional governance for economic competitiveness."

City officials are encouraged to create "teams" of government, business, community, and civic leaders to attend the Symposium together.



A "City Showcase" will provide opportunities for participants to learn the details about programs that work in localities across the nation.

Extending an invitation to city and town officials, Mayor Hood said this will be the most important event in 1998 regarding the success of your local economy in the evolving global marketplace."

For more information on the Symposium and to obtain registration materials, call Catherine Moses at (202) 626-3061. ■

Averaging Conceals the Reality of U.S. Economic Activity

Performance of Metro Economies Is More Important Indicator

by Randy Arndt

What has your metropolitan economy got to do with U.S. trade negotiations, Asia's economic woes, or the insecurity of household budgets?

Plenty, say two researchers in a new book that suggests that the performance of local economies is the key to these and other evolving economic issues.

To improve U.S. ability to address economic challenges and opportunities, policy-makers must shift their focus from the "mesmerizing image" of a single, homogenous "national economy" to the performance of metropolitan-centered "local economic regions."

William R. Barnes and Larry C. Ledebur call for dumping the "one-size-fits-all, rising-tide-lifts-all-boats, nationalistic economic framework" in *The New Regional Economies: the U.S. Common Market and the Global Economy*.

Instead, Barnes and Ledebur suggest a new framework which they call "common market regionalism." The real, functional economies, they say, are the local economic regions, all of which are different, with their own business cycles. These regions are closely linked and

interdependent with each other through transportation, communications, finance, and other networks. The United States economy is a "common market" of these linked regional economies.

Barnes is director of the Center for Research and Program Development at the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C.; Ledebur is Director of the Urban Center, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Research for the book was supported by a Ford Foundation grant to the National League of Cities.

The New Regional Economies presents an approach that addresses the diversity of local and regional realities, not abstractions based on national averages. The authors say their approach will help prevent policy-makers from concluding that "the economy" is doing well even when lots of people and places are not.

According to Barnes and Ledebur, using the "inappropriate lens" to look at economies results in perceiving and describing problems incorrectly, which inevitably leads to selecting solutions that do not work as well as they might. Uniform economic policies that respond to national averages for indicators such as unemployment, inflation, exporting, and poverty cannot maximize efficiency, productivity, and growth.

The authors also assert that no state or local government is "congruent" with a regional economy. They call for collaboration among local governments—and active, ongoing discussion and partnership among public officials, civic leaders and the business community—to create effective "governance" that will "nurture the regional commons."

They also recommend a "Forum for the Common Market" where regional representatives can address issues such as trade, finance, or monetary policy that are currently treated as the exclusive preserve of the federal government. Those and other policy issues, including the allocation of policy roles among levels of government, require re-thinking to incorporate regional economic realities.

The book goes beyond the city/suburb "fragmentation debate" and rejects simplistic calls for metropolitan government, recommending instead a process of adaptation and collaboration based on self-interests to achieve the needed governance capacity.

The New Regional Economies (192 pages) is available in hardcover (#09399; \$42) or paper (#09397; \$19.95) from Sage Publications, Inc. Contact: (805) 499-9774; Fax: (805) 499-0871; E-mail: order@sagepub.com; <http://www.sagepub.com>. ■



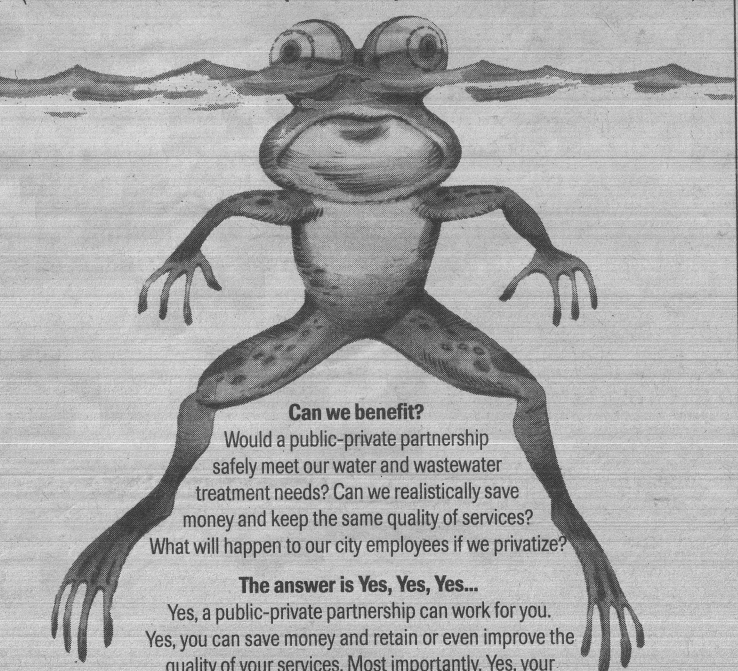
Library Reopens in Dallas

The city of Dallas celebrated the opening of its renovated and expanded J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. Pictured participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony are Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk (far right front in glasses), members of the city council (from first row left to right) Al Lipscomb, Donna Blumer, Barbara Mallory-Caraway and Valetta Lill; (second row) Alan Waite, Lois Finkleman and John Loza, Deputy Mayor Steve Salazar and Don Stone, Chairman of the Board of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Inc. among others.

The ribbon cutting marked the completion of the \$2 million project developed to make the library more customer friendly through construction design changes. The new and improved facility includes updated ADA requirements; a one-stop help desk where citizens can get assistance with their most frequent concerns, like a library card, checking out materials, paying fines and reference help; and the installment of twenty on-line work stations boasting Internet and resume software.

Details: Jana Chomycia, (214) 670-7380.

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CITY IDEAS THAT WORK

Frisoli Center Gives Cambridge Youth a Positive Place to Go

With the opening of the new Frisoli Youth Center last October, the children of East Cambridge, Mass. have a positive, supervised environment with an array of recreational and educational activities for after school hours and Saturdays.

Replacing rented rooms in a local church that served 25 to 30 participants a day, the new \$4 million center serves as many as 150 a day. One of five city youth centers, and the third involving new construction, the project demonstrates the continuing commitment of the city to responding to the need for expanded facilities for its youth.

The Frisoli center is situated on formerly underutilized tennis courts at the Harrington School/Donnelly Field Complex in a densely populated area. It is named for a former East Cambridge resident who served as the city's superintendent of schools and devoted many years to organizing youth sports programs.

The building was designed to blend in with the neighborhood, and its architecture is derived from the surrounding two- and three-story bay front housing units. The structure incorporates the bays, turreted corners and distinctive trim cornices of this classic Cambridge housing motif. The main entrance is in the rear, away from the street, out of respect to neighboring residents.

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"Rather than being dominated by... athletics, the program is an all inclusive menu of services available to kids in the community, with an emphasis on education and the skills they need to succeed," notes Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, who served as project leader and led the four-year community planning process.

Stephen C. Christo, the center's director, credits the new facility for the capabilities to provide expanded programming. "From the beginning, we

surveyed school children about the activities they would participate in. People wanted more than just recreational space. We are able to offer the kids many more options than we could in our former space. The design is so open, it is very easy to maintain and supervise."

"The building is unique in its offerings of different types of opportunities for different kids at the same time. It is our hope that this center becomes the haven for kids in East Cambridge," said director of Recreation Paul Ryder. That more than 450 youth center members signed on in its first month of operation makes this goal achievable.

"It is a good feeling for me to see this happen in the community in which I grew up," said Rossi. "I see the kids, and how happy they are to have a facility like this. That is the ultimate measure of success."

Details: Dianne Ludman Frank at (248) 644-3523

NEWS BRIEFS

Olympia Enacts Property Tax Exemption

To encourage the development of market-rate housing downtown and along two major transportation corridors, Olympia, Washington has enacted a 10-year property

tax exemption. The incentive exempts taxes on the valuation of improvements that create new multi-family housing in eligible areas. The program builds on other city efforts to promote redevelopment of seven sites in the warehouse and light industrial area near the Percival Landing waterfront boardwalk and park.

Details: Ken Black at (360) 753-8554

Transportation Management Center Opens

To alleviate traffic problems and create a more efficient transportation system, the City of Springfield and Missouri Department of Transportation have opened the Transportation

Management Center in the Discovery Center. Visitors to the family-oriented learning museum can see a traffic control center in operation, with real time views of some of the Springfield's major intersections. The computerized signal system will enable traffic lights to be changed as needed to control flow in the fast growing metropolitan area.

Details: (417) 864-101

Miami Election Voided

Because of massive absentee voter fraud, a Miami-Dade circuit court judge declared Miami's November 4 mayoral election void and ordered a new election within 60 days.

The new election will pit Xavier Suarez, the victor in the November contest, against former mayor Joe Carollo and three other candidates. A dispute over who is mayor for the next sixty days is likely to be decided in court. ■

'Kobans' and Safe Havens—The Formula We've Been Waiting For?

by Neal R. Peirce

Can we build on recent drops in violent crime to construct a safer society for the 21st century?

The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, named for the brother of the late president, has a suggestion on how to do it.

Across the nation's poorest neighborhoods, the Washington-based foundation would open several thousand "safe havens" for neighborhood youth, combined with police mini-stations on the model of the Japanese "kobans."

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Kobans are neighborhood-based police booths manned by officers on long-term assignment. One officer is called an omawarisan, literally Honorable Mr. Walk-About, who is expected to visit each local household and business once a year or more.

Kuniyasu Tsuchida, the Tokyo police chief in the late '70s, told me how shocked he'd been, visiting the USA, to see so few police officers walking through neighbor-

hoods. "There were only patrol cars, and they had no way of knowing what was going on inside buildings except through emergency calls," he observed.

Building safer communities isn't exclusively police work, however. So when the Eisenhower Foundation, in the '80s, started dispatching teams of U.S. police leaders to examine the Japanese model, it wisely included leaders of nonprofit, youth development organizations based in low-income, high-crime neighborhoods. Often, 12,000 miles from home, the police and grass-roots leaders bonded and embraced the idea.

And now, from San Juan, P.R., to Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Memphis, Little Rock and Columbia, S.C., the foundation can point to successful models in which the koban mini-station idea has been merged with the concept of a safe haven—a place where a young person, age 6 to 16—can retreat after school, evenings, on weekends.

Often from disrupted homes, the youth find a safe anchor. Sports, drill teams, Cub Scouts, job training, help with homework, editing a community newspaper, neighborhood cleanups, safety and beautification projects (such as flower gardens planted in senior citizens' yards)—any or all may be offered.

What's more, police officers often become mentors for the youth. In some programs, police officers visit the young people's homes to establish direct contact with parents.

With a measure of order and caring discipline in their lives, the young people tend to flourish and mature. And in a world in which many of their older brothers and sisters have fallen into careers of crime, often serving long prison sentences; they learn to respect and stay on the right side of the law.

The formula, in many ways, is close to traditional settlement houses and boys' and girls' clubs. The inclusion of the police, often seen as the "enemy" of low-income communities, clearly adds special value.

The cost? About \$80,000 to \$100,000 of nonpolice costs for each safe haven each year, mainly for a civilian director and a couple of aides.

The Eisenhower Foundation claims demonstrable results in its just released report, "Youth Investment

and Police Mentoring." In four cities' target neighborhoods where it used foundation and government money to test the program in the early '90s—San Juan, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago—serious crime declined at least 22 percent and by as much as 27 percent over three years. Any crime declines in nearby neighborhoods, or the entire cities, was tiny in comparison.

But it's folly, argues Eisenhower Foundation president Lynn Curtis, to think enough quality volunteers can be recruited to get the same results that qualified paid staff, working collaboratively with the police, can produce.

Indeed, Justice Department funding was cut off in the third year of the four-city koban safe haven experiment. Volunteers, where they could be found, had to be substituted for paid staff. The result, in each city: Crime stopped declining significantly.

A figure such as Colin Powell may champion volunteerism, notes Curtis, but few suburbanites will volunteer for serious inner-city duty, and local residents' lives are already under too much pressure. It costs up to \$1,000 a year to train and supervise even a part-time volunteer. Like Desert Storm, Curtis suggests, a combination of strategic planning and decently paid professionals will be needed to turn around lost youth in ravaged communities.

In an era of lingering public hostility to federal social spending, some people may write off that argument as reconstructed liberalism. The very idea of directing multiple new billions of federal money toward a social goal seems strangely out of date. And most of us believe volunteerism can and should be expanded.

It's tough to argue, however, that prevention is much smarter than a cure. We have before us clear proof that a partnership of koban-like community policing mini-stations and safe havens run by grass-roots organizations does work. The formula rings true for liberals and conservatives alike.

Compare this approach to pouring still more of our national and state fortunes into prisons, and the more you think the wiser it seems. ■

Black Mayors Will Convene In Mid-April In New Orleans

The National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) will hold its 24th Annual Convention in New Orleans April 14-18, 1998. The theme this year is "Taking the Moral High Ground: A Blueprint for Affirmative Action."

The theme seeks to build a dialogue among mayors, other elected and appointed officials, educators, corporate executives and youth on affirmative action, said NCBM President and Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver. Beyond the specifics of the theme, workshops and exhibits will highlight program innovation and new technologies available for managing cities.

Another highlight of the conference is a special workshop offered by the Black Women Mayor's Caucus to support the efforts of the more than 100 black women mayors. ■

Details: NCBM at (404) 876-4597.



Mayor Cleaver

New Guidebook Demystifies Municipal Bonds

A new book, *Ehlers on Public Finance*, is a comprehensive guide designed to help communities market their municipal bonds more effectively and save them money in bonding expenses and interest charges.

Written by Robert Ehlers, a consultant with 40 years of experience in public finance, the manual discusses both the basic of bond financing and more complex topics like arbitrage, refundings, bond pools, tax increment financing, variable-rate securities, and lease-purchase arrangements.

The book, written in a straightforward and readable style, grew out of Ehlers' strongly held belief that many local governments enter the bond market from a position of weakness. "To compete on an equal basis with investors and bond dealers who represent them, municipalities must be informed on all aspects of capital finance," Ehlers says. "They must not participate as subordinate parties, not as borrowers seeking funds, but as sellers of securities."

Designed for the serious public finance practitioner, the book includes 33 chapters that discuss the planning process for going to the bond market, bond elections, how to market bonds most effectively, and roles in the issuance process that should be played by bond counsel and financial advisors.

It also contains numerous case studies and useful examples, a comprehensive glossary of public finance lingo, and sources of additional information.

The 400-page book costs \$299 and is available by calling 1-800-414-2395 or 507-663-1039; fax, 507-645-2763; www.publicfinance.org. ■

SYMPATHY NOTE

Veep Regrets Takings Bill

I regret that the Senate Judiciary Committee voted today to ignore the voices of our nation's governors, mayors and local officials by approving a bill that would burden taxpayers, put the federal courts in charge of local zoning, and put special interests ahead of community interests.

This bill would radically change the American tradition of working out land use disputes at a local level. Instead, those disputes would go directly into the federal court. As a result, this so-called property rights bill would actually take away the rights of our communities to control their future.

—Statement of Vice President Al Gore on passage of NLC-opposed Senate Takings Legislation

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risoli Center Gives Cambridge Youth a Positive Place to Go

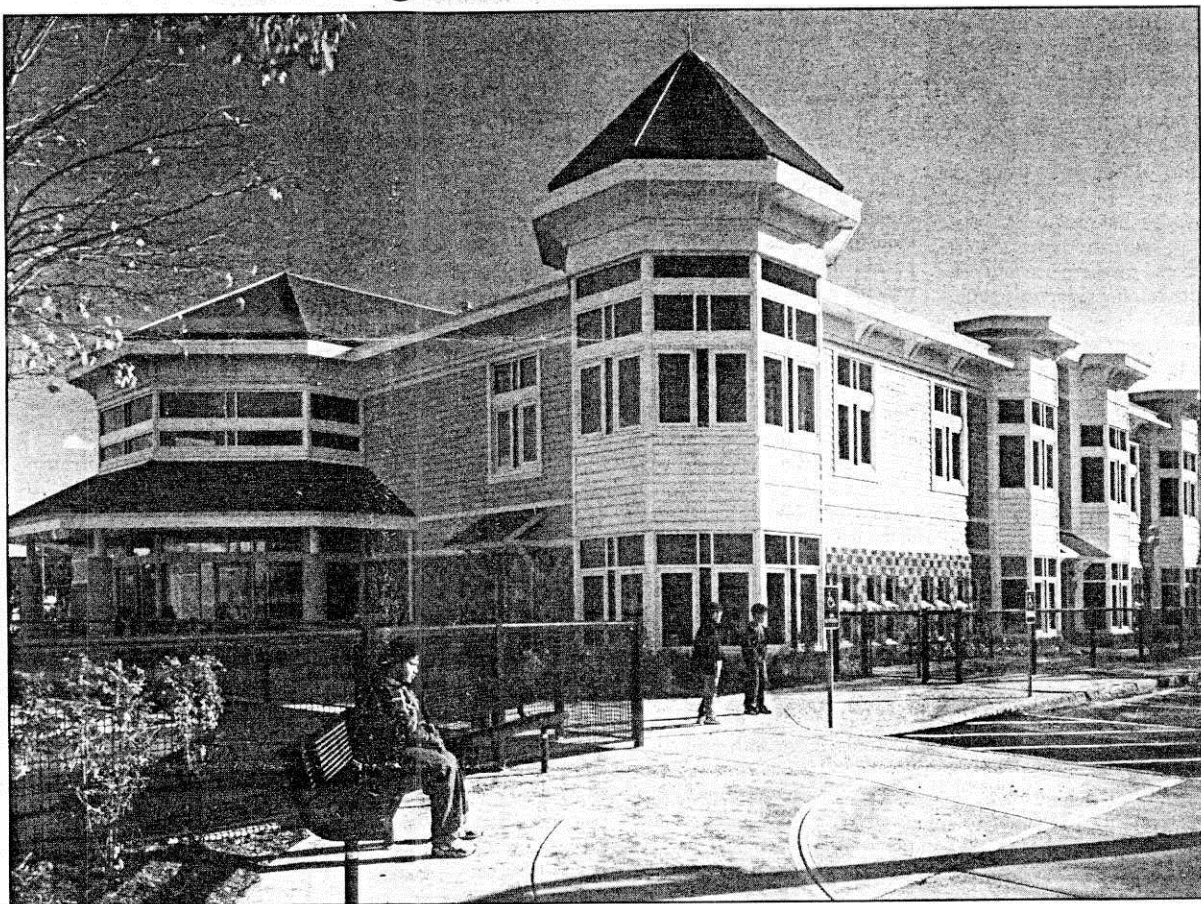
With the opening of the new Frisoli Youth Center last October, the children of East Cambridge, Mass. have a positive, supervised environment with an array of recreational and educational activities for after school hours and Saturdays.

Replacing rented rooms in a local church that served 25 to 30 participants a day, the new \$4 million center serves as many as 150 a day. One of five city youth centers, and the third involving new construction, the project demonstrates the continuing commitment of the city to responding to the need for expanded facilities for its youth.

The Frisoli center is situated on formerly underutilized tennis courts at the Harrington School/Donnelly Field Complex in a densely populated area. It is named for a former East Cambridge resident who served as the city's superintendent of schools and devoted many years to organizing youth sports programs.

The building was designed to blend in with the neighborhood, and its architecture is derived from the surrounding two- and three-story bay front housing units. The structure incorporates the bays, turreted corners and distinctive trim cornices of this classic Cambridge housing motif. The main entrance is in the rear, away from the street, out of respect to neighboring residents.

The 21,600-square-foot center includes a full gymnasium—one of the largest in the city. A mezzanine level containing a weight/aerobics room, computer room/career library, game room, TV lounge, multipurpose/kitchen area, conference room and office space overlooks the multi-story gym. A Head Start day care center,



Cambridge's new \$4 million Frisoli Youth Center serves as many as 150 children a day.

which fulfills the community's desire for such an amenity, is located on the first floor and has a distinct entrance.

In response to a community needs assessment, the center offers a multitude of programs—from nutrition and cooking classes in the demonstration kitchen, to homework assistance in the quiet study areas or on computers donated by local area businesses, to counseling and educational classes for older youth.

"Rather than being dominated by... athletics, the program is an all inclusive menu of services available to kids in the community, with an emphasis on education and the skills they need to succeed," notes Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, who served as project leader and led the four-year community planning process.

Stephen C. Christo, the center's director, credits the new facility for the capabilities to provide expanded programming. "From the beginning, we

surveyed school children about the activities they would participate in. People wanted more than just recreational space. We are able to offer the kids many more options than we could in our former space. The design is so open, it is very easy to maintain and supervise."

"The building is unique in its offerings of different types of opportunities for different kids at the same time. It is our hope that this center becomes the haven for kids in East Cambridge," said director of Recreation Paul Ryder. That more than 450 youth center members signed on in its first month of operation makes this goal achievable.

"It is a good feeling for me to see this happen in the community in which I grew up," said Rossi. "I see the kids, and how happy they are to have a facility like this. That is the ultimate measure of success."

Details: Dianne Ludman Frank at (248) 644-3523



City of Cambridge

33.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 1998

MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record as congratulating the **City Manager** and **Deputy City Manager** for the very positive publicity around the **opening of the Frisoli Youth Center** in the March 9th issue of the Nation's Cities Weekly Publication which is the official publication of the National League of Cities.

R-315

Consent Order #33

**Mayor Duehay and Councillor Russell
re: congratulate the City Manager and
Deputy City Manager for the positive
publicity on the opening of the Frisoli
Youth Center.**

In City Council March 16, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED