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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BETH RUBENSTEIN

*Assistant City Manager for  
Community Development*

MALAINA BOWKER

*Deputy Director for  
Community Development*

**To:** Robert W. Healy, City Manager

**From:** <sup>BR</sup> Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager  
for Community Development

**Date:** April 4, 2001

**Re:** Council Order #1, dated 3/2/01: Report on Cambridge 2000 Census  
Data

In response to the above-referenced order, attached is a memorandum dated March 29, 2001 from Clifford Cook, the Community Development Department's Planning Information Manager, outlining the preliminary results of the US Census 2000 for Cambridge. This information reflects the first data set that has been released – information on population, race and voting age.

Further data, including more detailed information on gender, age, race, and housing tenure, will be released during the later part of 2001 through May 2002. Additional information (from the census long form) will not be released until later in 2002. This will include many categories of information including income, ancestry, poverty status, labor force status and housing characteristics.

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** ROBERT HEALY, CITY MANAGER  
**THRU:** BETH RUBENSTEIN, ASST. CITY MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**FROM:** CLIFFORD COOK, PLANNING INFORMATION MANAGER *cc*  
**CC:** MALAINA BOWKER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
STUART DASH, COMMUNITY PLANNING DIRECTOR  
**SUBJECT:** ANALYSIS OF INITIAL CENSUS 2000 RESULTS FOR CAMBRIDGE  
**DATE:** MARCH 29, 2001

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Last week the Census Bureau released the first Census 2000 data set for Massachusetts. This information is for redistricting purposes and is limited to data needed to meet redistricting requirements under the Constitution and Federal law. The data includes total population, and breakdowns by race, Hispanic origin and voting age (under 18 or 18 and over) for census tracts, blockgroups and blocks, as well as sections of all the various wards and precincts in the City.

The attached spreadsheets summarize year 2000 Census results for the entire City of Cambridge and compare those results to information from the 1990 U. S. Census.

Highlights include the following:

- The City's population increased by 5,533, or 5.8 %, from 1990 to 2000. The population exceeds 100,000 for the first time since 1970.
- The number of persons under 18 is 13,447, or 13.3% of the 2000 population. This represents a slight shift from 1990 when the number of persons under 18 totaled 13,612, or 14.2% of the total population.
- The percentage of White non-Hispanics in Cambridge declined to 64.6% from 72% in 1990. Disregarding Hispanic status, Whites declined to 68.1% from 75.3% in 1990. (Note that Census 2000 allowed individuals to select two or more racial categories.)
- Whites comprise 51.6% of the population under 18, and non-Hispanic Whites are 46.7%.
- Looking at the voting age population non-Hispanic Whites comprise 67.3% of the population. Disregarding Hispanic status, Whites comprise 70.6% of the population 18 or older.
- The most notable shift for a racial grouping affects Asians and Pacific Islanders. In 1990 these two groups comprised 8.4% of the population. By 2000, together the categories ranged from 12.0% to 13.3% of the residents. (The later figure distributes persons of two or more races to every racial category selected, resulting in a citywide total in excess of 100.0%.) These figures reflect an increase in numbers from 8,081 in 1990 to a 2000

figure of 12,113 (a 48.9% increase) or 13,516 (a 64.2% increase), the latter number taking into account persons selecting two or more racial categories.

- The number of Blacks in the City changed from 12,930 in 1990 to 12,079 or 13,959 in 2000. This represents a shift from 13.5% to 11.9%, or 13.8% taking into account persons selecting two or more racial categories.
- Reflecting a national trend, the number of persons selecting Some Other Race increased from 2.5% to as many as 5.7%, taking into account persons selecting two or more racial categories. The later figure represents an increase of 140.8% from the corresponding 1990 figure. Hispanics comprised the great majority of such persons in both 1990 and 2000
- The number of Hispanics increased by 949 to 7,455 in 2000, a 14.6% increase. 48.2% of Hispanics consider themselves White alone, in contrast to 69.7% of non-Hispanics. 43.9% of Hispanics are either of Some Other Race or two or more races, in comparison to 4.5% of non-Hispanics.

**City of Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Analysis of Census 2000 Redistricting Data**

Population Category	Total	As % of Citywide Total	Under 18	As % of Citywide Under 18	18+	As % of Citywide 18+
<b>Total Population</b>	101,355	100.0%	13,447	100.0%	87,908	100.0%

**Total Population by Race - "alone"<sup>1</sup>**

<i>White</i>	69,022	68.1%	6,944	51.6%	62,078	70.6%
<i>Black or African American</i>	12,079	11.9%	3,198	23.8%	8,881	10.1%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	290	0.3%	59	0.4%	231	0.3%
<i>Asian</i>	12,036	11.9%	1,209	9.0%	10,827	12.3%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</i>	77	0.1%	9	0.1%	68	0.1%
<i>Some Other Race</i> <sup>2</sup>	3,230	3.2%	834	6.2%	2,396	2.7%
<i>Two or More Races in Combination</i>	4,621	4.6%	1,194	8.9%	3,427	3.9%

**Total Population by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3</sup>**

<i>White</i>	72,213	71.2%	7,733	57.5%	64,480	73.3%
<i>Black or African American</i>	13,959	13.8%	3,829	28.5%	10,130	11.5%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	853	0.8%	178	1.3%	675	0.8%
<i>Asian</i>	13,265	13.1%	1,498	11.1%	11,767	13.4%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</i>	251	0.2%	40	0.3%	211	0.2%
<i>Some Other Race</i> <sup>2</sup>	5,734	5.7%	1,440	10.7%	4,294	4.9%

**Total Population by Hispanic Status<sup>4</sup>**

<i>Hispanic</i>	7,455	7.4%	1,717	12.8%	5,738	6.5%
<i>Not Hispanic</i>	93,900	92.6%	11,730	87.2%	82,170	93.5%

City of Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Analysis of Census 2000 Redistricting Data

Population Category	Total	As % of Citywide Total	As % Subtotal	Under 18	As % of Citywide Under 18	As % Subtotal	18+	As % of Citywide 18+	As % Subtotal
<b>Total Population</b>	101,355	100.0%	--	13,447	100.0%	--	87,908	100.0%	--

**Hispanics by Race - "alone"<sup>1,4</sup>**

White	3,597	3.5%	48.2%	663	4.9%	38.6%	2,934	3.3%	51.1%
Black or African American	452	0.4%	6.1%	153	1.1%	8.9%	299	0.3%	5.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	77	0.1%	1.0%	30	0.2%	1.7%	47	0.1%	0.8%
Asian	52	0.1%	0.7%	6	0.0%	0.3%	46	0.1%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	6	0.0%	0.1%	1	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	0.1%
Some Other Race <sup>2</sup>	2,517	2.5%	33.8%	644	4.8%	37.5%	1,873	2.1%	32.6%
Two or More Races in Combination	754	0.7%	10.1%	220	1.6%	12.8%	534	0.6%	9.3%
<b>Subtotal</b>	7,455	7.4%	100.0%	1,717	12.8%	100.0%	5,738	6.5%	100.0%

**Hispanics by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3,4</sup>**

White	4,133	4.1%	55.4%	795	5.9%	46.3%	3,338	3.8%	58.2%
Black or African American	721	0.7%	9.7%	246	1.8%	14.3%	475	0.5%	8.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	166	0.2%	2.2%	52	0.4%	3.0%	114	0.1%	2.0%
Asian	110	0.1%	1.5%	19	0.1%	1.1%	91	0.1%	1.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	21	0.0%	0.3%	6	0.0%	0.3%	15	0.0%	0.3%
Some Other Race <sup>2</sup>	3,094	3.1%	41.5%	824	6.1%	48.0%	2,270	2.6%	39.6%
<b>Subtotal</b>	--	--	110.6%	--	--	113.1%	--	--	109.8%

**Non-Hispanics by Race - "alone"<sup>1</sup>**

White	65,425	64.6%	69.7%	6,281	46.7%	53.5%	59,144	67.3%	72.0%
Black or African American	11,627	11.5%	12.4%	3,045	22.6%	26.0%	8,582	9.8%	10.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	213	0.2%	0.2%	29	0.2%	0.2%	184	0.2%	0.2%
Asian	11,984	11.8%	12.8%	1,203	8.9%	10.3%	10,781	12.3%	13.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	71	0.1%	0.1%	8	0.1%	0.1%	63	0.1%	0.1%
Some Other Race <sup>2</sup>	713	0.7%	0.8%	190	1.4%	1.6%	523	0.6%	0.6%
Two or More Races in Combination	3,867	3.8%	4.1%	974	7.2%	8.3%	2,893	3.3%	3.5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	93,900	92.6%	100.0%	11,730	87.2%	100.0%	82,170	93.5%	100.0%

**Non-Hispanics by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3</sup>**

White	68,080	67.2%	72.5%	6,938	51.6%	59.1%	61,142	69.6%	74.4%
Black or African American	13,238	13.1%	14.1%	3,583	26.6%	30.5%	9,655	11.0%	11.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	687	0.7%	0.7%	126	0.9%	1.1%	561	0.6%	0.7%
Asian	13,155	13.0%	14.0%	1,479	11.0%	12.6%	11,676	13.3%	14.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	230	0.2%	0.2%	34	0.3%	0.3%	196	0.2%	0.2%
Some Other Race <sup>2</sup>	2,640	2.6%	2.8%	616	4.6%	5.3%	2,024	2.3%	2.5%
<b>Subtotal</b>	--	--	104.4%	--	--	108.9%	--	--	103.8%

**City of Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
**Comparison of Census 2000 Redistricting Data to 1990 Census Data**

TOTAL POPULATION	1990	As % of	2000	As % of	Change	% Change
	Total	1990	Total	2000		
<b>Total Population</b>	95,802	100.0%	101,355	100.0%	5,553	5.8%

**Total Population by Race - "alone"<sup>1</sup>**

<i>White</i>	72,122	75.3%	69,022	68.1%	-3,100	-4.3%
<i>Black or African American</i>	12,930	13.5%	12,079	11.9%	-851	-6.6%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	288	0.3%	290	0.3%	2	0.7%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	8,081	8.4%	12,036	11.9%	3,955	48.9%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	77	0.1%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	2,381	2.5%	3,230	3.2%	849	35.7%
<i>Two or More Races in Combination<sup>7</sup></i>	--	--	4,621	4.6%	--	--

**Total Population by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3</sup>**

<i>White</i>	72,122	75.3%	72,213	71.2%	91	0.1%
<i>Black or African American</i>	12,930	13.5%	13,959	13.8%	1,029	8.0%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	288	0.3%	853	0.8%	565	196.2%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	8,081	8.4%	13,265	13.1%	5,184	64.2%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	251	0.2%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	2,381	2.5%	5,734	5.7%	3,353	140.8%

**Total Population by Hispanic Status<sup>4</sup>**

<i>Hispanic</i>	6,506	6.8%	7,455	7.4%	949	14.6%
<i>Not Hispanic</i>	89,296	93.2%	93,900	92.6%	4,604	5.2%

**TOTAL POPULATION UNDER 18**

TOTAL POPULATION UNDER 18	1990	As % of	2000	As % of	Change	% Change
	Total	1990	Total	2000		
<b>Total Population</b>	13,612	100.0%	13,447	100.0%	-165	-1.2%

**Total Population by Race - "alone"<sup>1</sup>**

<i>White</i>	8,202	60.3%	6,944	51.6%	-1,258	-15.3%
<i>Black or African American</i>	3,537	26.0%	3,198	23.8%	-339	-9.6%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	51	0.4%	59	0.4%	8	15.7%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	1,081	7.9%	1,209	9.0%	128	11.8%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	9	0.1%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	741	5.4%	834	6.2%	93	12.6%
<i>Two or More Races in Combination<sup>7</sup></i>	--	--	1,194	8.9%	--	--

**Total Population by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3</sup>**

<i>White</i>	8,202	60.3%	7,733	57.5%	-469	-5.7%
<i>Black or African American</i>	3,537	26.0%	3,829	28.5%	292	8.3%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	51	0.4%	178	1.3%	127	249.0%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	1,081	7.9%	1,498	11.1%	417	38.6%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	40	0.3%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	741	5.4%	1,440	10.7%	699	94.3%

**Total Population by Hispanic Status<sup>4</sup>**

<i>Hispanic</i>	1,749	12.8%	1,717	12.8%	-32	-1.8%
<i>Not Hispanic</i>	11,683	85.8%	11,730	87.2%	47	0.4%

**City of Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
**Comparison of Census 2000 Redistricting Data to 1990 Census Data**

<b>TOTAL POPULATION 18 &amp; OVER</b>	1990 Total	As % of 1990 Total	2000 Total	As % of 2000 Total	Change 1990 to 2000	% Change 1990 to 2000
<b>Total Population</b>	82,190	100.0%	87,908	100.0%	5,718	7.0%

**Total Population by Race - "alone"<sup>1</sup>**

<i>White</i>	63,920	77.8%	62,078	70.6%	-1,842	-2.9%
<i>Black or African American</i>	9,393	11.4%	8,881	10.1%	-512	-5.5%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	237	0.3%	231	0.3%	-6	-2.5%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	7,000	8.5%	10,827	12.3%	3,827	54.7%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	68	0.1%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	1,640	2.0%	2,396	2.7%	756	46.1%
<i>Two or More Races in Combination<sup>7</sup></i>	--	--	3,427	3.9%	--	--

**Total Population by Race - "alone and in combination"<sup>3</sup>**

<i>White</i>	63,920	77.8%	64,480	73.3%	560	0.9%
<i>Black or African American</i>	9,393	11.4%	10,130	11.5%	737	7.8%
<i>American Indian and Alaska Native</i>	237	0.3%	675	0.8%	438	184.8%
<i>Asian<sup>5</sup></i>	7,000	8.5%	11,767	13.4%	4,767	68.1%
<i>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander<sup>6</sup></i>	--	--	211	0.2%	--	--
<i>Some Other Race<sup>2</sup></i>	1,640	2.0%	4,294	4.9%	2,654	161.8%

**Total Population by Hispanic Status<sup>4</sup>**

<i>Hispanic</i>	4,757	5.8%	5,738	6.5%	981	20.6%
<i>Not Hispanic</i>	77,613	94.4%	82,170	93.5%	4,557	5.9%

## City of Cambridge, Massachusetts Analysis of Census 2000 Redistricting Data

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### Footnotes

1. *Census 2000 was the first census to allow respondents to report more than one race for an individual. Hence, responses in this table indicate whether a respondent selected a single race category "alone" or two or more race categories. Due to this change in methodology, racial statistics reported from Census 2000 lack a one-to-one comparison with those reported by any previous Census.*
2. *The category "Some Other Race" indicates that the respondent wrote in a race category not included elsewhere by the Census Bureau. Examples of responses coded as "Some Other Race" include various Hispanic groups, multiracial, mixed, Cajun, Cape Verdean and Creole.*
3. *Responses in tables labeled "alone or in combination" assign each respondent to every race category he or she selected on the Census form. Thus, a person selecting both the "White" and "Black or African American" categories is counted twice in this table. As a consequence, the percentages in each such table sum to more than 100% of the corresponding population.*
4. *Hispanic status is independent of race and reflects whether a respondent has origins in either Spain or the Spanish speaking countries of the western hemisphere. The later include Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as well as all Spanish speaking countries located in Central America and South America.*
5. *As used here, the "Asian" category corresponds to the 1990 U. S. Census category "Asian & Pacific Islander".*
6. *The 1990 U. S. Census did not utilize the category "Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander". Instead this category was treated as a subgroup of "Asian & Pacific Islander". To compare 2000 Census results to 1990 Census results compare the total of 2000 "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander" to the corresponding 1990 figure for "Asian".*
7. *The 1990 U. S. Census did not allow respondents to select two or more racial categories, complicating a direct comparison with 2000 results. In tables marked "Total Population by Race - alone" a comparison might best be made between the 1990 category "Some Other Race" and the total of the 2000 categories "Some Other Race" and "Two or More Races in Combination". In Tables marked "Total Population by Race - alone and in combination" respondents who selected two or more races are assigned to each racial category selected. In such cases the best comparison might be between the "Some Other Race" categories for 1990 and 2000.*

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**Source:** 2000 data from 2000 U. S. Census P.L. 94-171 data file for Massachusetts, United States Bureau of the Census, March 2001.  
1990 data from 1990 U. S. Census STF1A data file for Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States Bureau of the Census, 1990.



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**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

*Robert W. Healy, City Manager    Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

April 9, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-166, regarding a report on the Cambridge 2000 census data, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
Attachment



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**Consent Agenda #6**

Awaiting Report Item Number  
01-166, regarding a report on the  
Cambridge 2000 census data.

**In City Council April 9, 2001**

Report Placed on  
File and Referred  
to Joint Committees  
of Human Services  
and Civic Unity on  
motion of Councillor  
Reeves.

Copy  
sent  
4-11-01  
mc