

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

IN CITY COUNCIL
December 22, 1975

Councillor Vellucci

WHEREAS:

The completion of rehabilitation work at Linwood Court Homes, as one of the many important and inter-related parts of the overall Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program, is a significant achievement resulting in the upgrading of existing deteriorated and neighborhood-blighting structures, and their replacement with 45 sound and spacious, tax-producing apartments which are now being occupied and which will soon be cooperatively-owned by families of various social, economic, and racial backgrounds; and

WHEREAS:

As in the past seven years, the Just-A-Start Program for Summer 1975 again provided critically-needed opportunities for youth training and employment, work-study, and extensive help in neighborhood recreation, beautification, and rehabilitation work for so many of our residents; and

WHEREAS:

The continuation of year-round, door-to-door housing rehabilitation activities through the use of attractive long-term, low-interest rate Section 312 loans and outright Section 115 grants, as well as through the use of conventional bank loans and other supplementary grant funds, has resulted in the substantial betterment of existing neighborhood housing units within the economic means of families and individuals now living in them; and

WHEREAS:

These programs have been designed to extend and to complement earlier new-housing development work already completed including the construction of Harwell Homes, the on-going home rehabilitation and target-block conservation program; the provision of better recreation areas and community facilities such as the Market Street Playground and the Model Cities Neighborhood Center, improved parks and open spaces, streets, sidewalks, and landscaping, utilities and services, and the school-year phases of the Just-A-Start Program; and

WHEREAS:

Further work is already underway to provide for the construction and rehabilitation of additional facilities for neighborhood churches and for the Concilio Hispano de Cambridge, for the building of new facilities for both established neighborhood stores and relocated businesses, for the development of cleared land along Portland Street, for the construction of additional dwellings on scattered housing sites

throughout the neighborhood, and for the renovation of the former Will Scientific (Close) Building to create an additional 61 units of housing for low- and moderate-income families, the first such housing to be financed under the provisions of the new Federal Section 8 housing assistance program through the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MHFA); and

WHEREAS:

These activities have resulted from singularly effective neighborhood leadership and civic collaboration among the Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee, the Wellington-Harrington Development Corporation, the Just-A-Start Corporation, and other involved citizen groups which have actively participated from the beginning in all stages of the planning and actual development of the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program, with the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority and the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS:

Such leadership, and the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program itself, have received unique recognition in the form of a 1975 National Award from the National Center for Voluntary Action; and

WHEREAS:

The Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program has been, and is, an extremely effective action program providing -- within the framework of a comprehensive and officially-approved local neighborhood stabilization plan, and on a continuing basis-- for the preservation and improvement of an entire neighborhood, for the people who now live there, at costs which they can afford; and

WHEREAS:

The Federal Government has replaced many of the categorical grant programs originally intended to provide continuing financial support for such comprehensive neighborhood improvement work with the new annual Community Development Block Grant Program, a basic objective of which remains the same: to stabilize and to improve older neighborhoods, and to provide better homes and a better living environment for the people; and

WHEREAS:

The Community Development Block Grant Program, by providing fewer dollars for such purposes, may create counter-productive competition for those dollars; and

WHEREAS:

For many years and irrespective of particular funding sources, the City Council has solidly supported the carrying out of comprehensive

housing stabilization programs to protect and to serve the people who are now living in our older neighborhoods, as well as the need for full citizen participation; and

WHEREAS:

In view of the present circumstances, and its stated position, the City Council must now make it clear that it will support the continued funding and the completion of such important, long-term, landmark neighborhood improvement projects as the one in the Wellington-Harrington Area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

That every effort shall be made, even with a projected reduction in the annual outlay of Community Development Block Grant funds in future years, to continue the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program in a comprehensive way for the entire neighborhood as originally planned. And, further, be it

RESOLVED:

That, in view of the uncertainties and projected curtailment of Federal funding in future years, the City Manager is requested, in the long-run, to make all necessary provisions for the funding of the comprehensive Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program from both Federal and local sources. This shall be accomplished by including the Program as a part of the City's annual capital improvement or public investment program, in both operating and capital budgets beginning with the City's Annual 1976-1977 Budget, to be funded from the Community Development Block Grant or Urgent Needs Programs or other sources or any combination thereof. The Program and its funding shall be continued until such time as it is completed either in accordance with the plan for the area as initially approved by the City Council and City Manager, or in accordance with such modifications as may be approved hereafter by them in accordance with law and governing regulations.

RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is requested, in the short-run (1) to include the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program and related activities in the second-year Community Development Block Grant Application, providing therein for the Wellington-Harrington Area, on a proportionate basis in terms of the City's reduced second-year total Community Development Block Grant allocation, no less than those amounts included in the approved first-year program: that is, \$93,000 for the Just-A-Start Program, \$145,000 for housing rehabilitation and conservation, and \$575,000 toward completion of the Wellington-Harrington Title I project and related activities, and contingencies; and (2) to include the Program in the second-year "Urgent Needs" Application, providing therein for the Area whatever amount may reasonably be required to cover all of the total additional costs needed to complete the project, but in any event no less than the \$600,000 included in the approved first-year program, for an additional one-year period.



City of Cambridge

1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

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City of Cambridge

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City of Cambridge

WM 619

JDS 100

Last Year This Year

575

93

-3-

HIP 155 145

housing stabilization programs to protect and to serve the people who are now living in our older neighborhoods, as well as the need for full citizen participation; and

WHEREAS:

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93.00

Referred to the Council Meeting of January 12, 1976

S-101#2 Order #1 ~~S-577~~
C. Vellucci resolutions on the Wellington-
Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Calendar #2, Decent/76

-Placed on File-

1/12/76

Filed on Motion

OF L. HARRINGTON - FOR

Three weeks.

12/24/75

LV. moved to refer
this order to January

12/75 meeting
of New City Council

In City Council,

Dec. 22, 1975

Motion Adopted

W/O OBJECTION-