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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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December 8, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Number 03-134 regarding a plan to promote the recycling of "retired" cell phones, DPW Commissioner Lisa Peterson reports the following:

Donating your mobile phone so it can be recycled is important, because mobile phones contain toxic elements like Mercury, Cadmium, Lead, and other hazardous materials that shouldn't be thrown into a landfill. Reuse is the best form of recycling. If your phone cannot be reused, it will be recycled for its metals and plastics in accordance with federal and local environmental standards. There are numerous options for residents to recycle old cell phones. These include:

Donate to a charity. Visit www.collectivegood.com or www.RecycleWirelessPhone.org, two good mobile devices recycling web sites, to get information on where to donate your cell phone. Individuals can donate phones directly to a participating charity and receive a tax-deduction for the in-kind donation. There are also a number of stores that accept used cell phones and use portions of the proceeds to raise funds for charities.

Bring it to Staples, AT&T Wireless, Cingular Wireless, Nextel, Sprint or Verizon Wireless retail stores. Old cell phones and other mobile electronics may be brought to any of these retail stores nationwide. In most cases, net proceeds generated from recycling the mobile electronic devices are donated to charities.

Bring it to the Cambridge Police Department. The CPD's Domestic Violence Unit gives useable cell phones to Domestic Violence victims. Old phones can generally be used to call 911.

Use the Cambridge Recycling Drop-Off Center. Old cell phones (and other mobile devices including pagers and PDAs) can be brought to the Cambridge Recycling Drop-Off Center during open hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-7:30pm and Saturdays 9-4pm). CRT Recycling of Raynham, Massachusetts salvages and recycles them along with computers, televisions and other electronic devices.

The Department of Public Works will promote this information on its web site, on Cable TV, and through press releases during the holiday season.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

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Consent Agenda #8

Transmitting communication from
Robert W. Healy, City Manager,
relative to **Awaiting Report Item
Number 03-134**, regarding a report
on a plan to promote the recycling of
"retired" cell phones.

In City Council December 8, 2003

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