

The Committee on Human Services and Human Rights conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, June 1, 1988 in the Ackermann Room at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Alice Wolf, Chair of the Committee opened the meeting by stating its purpose was to discuss a plan for the "Development of a Children and Youth Policy."

The Vice Mayor stated that pursuant to a previously submitted Council resolution offered by her, called for the development of a broad based policy for further budgetary consideration.

Furthermore, she stated it was imperative to identify and coordinate all current and potential components within the human service area both in the public and private sector.

Vice Mayor Wolf ^{stated} this meeting was an attempt to begin ^{thinking} collectively toward developing a process from which to proceed and to achieve the ultimate goal / of actually constructing a comprehensive policy.

At this time, Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Service Programs stated she believed it was extremely important to obtain a compilation of all existing groups, commissions and agencies currently dealing with youth in order to get a clear picture of the wide range of programs and services as well as to determine where gaps may exist.

Ron Benham, Chair of the Human Services Commission stated that clearly the need exists to service the children and youth of the city, but the development of a policy must be accompanied with "an action plan." He further suggested the committee consider ^{broadening} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ non-public support, particularly from the business sector as a way to fund any new policy.

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William Bates, Assistant Director of Health for the Cambridge School Department stated he agreed with the suggestions of the Vice Mayor and Ms. Herold. He further suggested the City consider filing an application under the "Commonwealth's Future Grant" program.

At this time, the Committee heard from Susan Golden, Associate Administrator of the Cambridge Community Services Program who stated that her agency was currently in the process of beginning a "Needs Assessment" to determine what programs are working, where gaps exist and where additional ^{statistical} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ data is needed.

Councillor David Sullivan stated he strongly supports the Vice Mayor in her effort regarding this policy and hopes once such a policy is complete, the Committee could find a way to implement it.

At this time the Vice Mayor outlined the next steps to be taken which are:

- 1) To identify all agencies, commissions, etc. working with youth and children in order to determine the kind of services and population they serve;
- 2) To examine what the City does not have in terms of a needs assessment and to do a resource analysis; and,

- 3) To develop a list of community groups, etc. which should be
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aaaaaaa to offer ~~impact~~ to this committee.

Finally, the Vice Mayor stated she hoped that a final document could be prepared by January, 1989.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

For the Committee,

Vice Mayor Alice K. Wolf, Chair,

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- ③ to develop a list of community groups etc which should be selected to offer input to the committee.

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For the Committee

Vice Mayor Allen K. Wolf
Chair

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For the Committee,

Vice Mayor Alice K. Wolf, Chair

City of Cambridge

In City Council June 6, 1988

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17.

S-400

REPORT

Committee on Human Rights & Human
Services

Re: development of a children & youth policy.

In City Council,

June 6, 1988

G-6-PP

Placed on file