

all - Councilors

25

Cyr
Walsh
Dulley

Resolved: That the City Manager is hereby ^{requested} ~~requested~~ to instruct the Law Department to develop a home rule petition ~~that~~ to ^{allow} ~~will~~ ~~show~~ the city to utilize the reserve list in hiring police recruits. And

Further: That the Manager report back to the Council within 1 week with his response to this order.

V/V

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Cambridge police head balks at hirings

■ ANDERSON

Continued from Page 29
responsive to the community, declined to comment.

Some councilors, who have been reluctant to criticize the Police Department openly, have said privately that the very reason they selected a police commissioner with no ties to Cambridge was to rid the department of patronage, nepotism and apathy.

In fact, the council created the police commissioner post, a non-civil service position, specifically to avoid hiring a new chief from within the ranks of the department.

"Anderson is one of the best things that has ever happened to this city," Reeves said of the city's first police commissioner in an interview.

Sources close to Anderson said he could not understand nor condone why these recruits were approved and believes he is being pressured to hire them because of their political connections.

Jan. 24, Anderson wrote Healy memo, obtained by the Globe, summing up his position:

"The Cambridge Police Department and the City of Cambridge should strive to select the most qualified persons as Cambridge Police officers. Individuals with arrest

records, poor work history, or poor driving records should not be considered for employment as Cambridge Police Officers. Selections should not be compromised."

Anderson has said he would resign as commissioner if they are hired, according to sources.

Several councilors, interviewed during breaks in Monday's City Council meeting, said they backed Anderson and agree with his suspicions that the appointments may be politically motivated.

One of the disputed recruits is the son of a former associate of Councilor William H. Walsh, widely acknowledged as a powerful and influential figure in the city. He was arrested three times, once for assault with a dangerous weapon, which was later dismissed.

Another recruit, who was arrested on two counts of receiving stolen property, also has close links to Walsh. The recruit is a leader of a newly formed conservative political group, which was vocal in last fall's municipal elections.

However, city manager Healy, who is hired by the council and, in turn, hires and fires virtually all municipal employees, said the suspected "political connections had nothing to do" with the selection.

"One of the risks you take when you use a residents' preference hiring list is that Cambridge is a big city that's a small town. Everybody knows everybody" he said.

Healy also believes the criminal offenses are minor, citing that in some cases, the charges were dismissed.

He said that the hiring of police officers is subject to civil service guidelines, in which municipalities have "limited discretion." Significant weight must be given to those with the highest scores, he said, otherwise the city's choices can be challenged in court.

"If you bypass someone for a minor criminal offense, that person can challenge you and get a restraining order, tying up the whole list," said Healy.

Anderson is opposed to hiring any of these eight recruits, even if it means freezing the list permanently, sources said. He also believes a larger pool of applicants should have been scrutinized, even if it meant considering those with slightly lower scores.

"I strongly believe you want to get the best cops you can get and tests aren't the only measure of what makes a good cop," said vice mayor Ed Cyr.

A top Cambridge police official agreed.

"The scores are not the most significant part of testing. That's been proven. They could have pooled people with lower scores, which are still excellent grades, and come up with a group of finalists without criminal records and better work histories," he said.

But Healy said that he was reluctant to expand the pool of applicants because it would have cost the city more money for additional physical and psychological exams.

A police official replied, "It doesn't matter what the cost is. It's minor compared to the need to get the best. We already have too much cost associated with lost productivity, over absenteeism and abuse of sick time," he said.

"If you hire these people, you've got to live with them forever," he added.

Walsh denied having influence on any of the appointments.

"As far as I know they were the top mark-getters. I've never put political pressure on anybody for any political appointments," said Walsh, who is currently under federal grand jury probe for possible bank fraud.

Rival beneficiaries challenge \$97m bequest to church

■ BEQUEST

Continued from Page 29

trinal correctness of the book," the university and museum contend.

Although 115 pages of the book are "patently doctrinal in nature," the preface by church officials says the book "is to be considered only a biography" and that readers "may find differing interpretations of events or concepts" in the book, the court filing says.

Jack Ruskey, a Los Angeles lawyer representing the church, said it fully complied with the wills distribution should be made immediately.

But Carol Swenson, Stanford's lawyer, said that even if the church

has complied with the will, the trustees of the estates have so far provided no information to show that has happened.

Settlement of the dispute "certainly could" take months or years, Swenson said. "It all depends on whether we get the information we feel we need to ensure the terms of the will have been met."

When the church released its edition of Knapp's book, critics objected that the church had changed its position because it needed the money.

The church, once best known for its newspaper, the Christian Science Monitor, recently has developed a large broadcasting venture, including an ambitious daily television

news program and a cable network, the Monitor Channel.

Critics charge that the deficit from broadcast operations is \$80 million, a charge denied by church officials.

An annual fund-raising letter to members last month said "many of these activities have required substantial investment," adding that "continued prayerful and financial support is very much needed to sustain these activities."

"While the Mother Church expects to receive a substantial legacy this year, and we are grateful for this generous distribution, we want you to know that your individual donations are needed as well," said the

letter from Donald Bowersock, the church's treasurer.

Last month the church imposed a hiring freeze and more recently a salary freeze for employees in Boston.

Nathan Talbot, chairman of the church's Committee on Publication, blamed the recession for the freezes.

"The meetings I have attended have not indicated any financial emergency or alarm," Talbot said. The appeal from Bowersock was a normal, annual fund-raising letter, he said.

Despite the claims by critics that the church is facing bankruptcy, the church currently has no indebtedness, Talbot said.



City of Cambridge

25.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 24, 1992

VICE MAYOR CYR
MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR MYERS
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR WOLF

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Law Department to develop a home rule petition to allow the City to utilize the Reserve List in hiring police recruits; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council within one week with his response to this order.

In City Council February 24, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy

Joseph E. Connarton

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

Non-Consent order # 25
8-20

Entire membership re: home rule
petition to allow city to utilize the
reserve list for hiring police
recruits.

In City Council,

February 24, 1992

Order adopted