



City of Cambridge

136.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 4, 1997

MAYOR RUSSELL
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Secretary Andrew Cuomo of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development presented the 1997 John J. Gunther Blue Ribbon Practices in Community Development Award to the City of Cambridge for its Continuum of Care for homeless individuals and families; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs is responsible for developing and implementing the Continuum of Care on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS: In 1996-97 the Department of Human Services Programs joined with community agencies, particularly homeless consumer organizations, Solutions at Work and Bread and Jams, in seeking both provider and consumer involvement for preparation of the Continuum of Care; and

WHEREAS: Eleven consumer-focused meetings were held at different shelters, day programs, meals and transitional program sites, involving a total of 122 homeless and formerly homeless men and women; and

WHEREAS: Meetings were held with providers of services and housing to the homeless prior to and following the series of consumers forums; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Human Service Programs convened a steering committee, representing a balance of providers, homeless persons and local government and housing authority representatives to identify problem areas and gaps in services, articulate a rank-ordered list of categories of unmet need, and assign relative priorities to the projects proposed under the FY96 SuperNOFA Supportive Housing application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address gaps within the categories of need; and

WHEREAS: HUD has deemed the Cambridge Continuum of Care process exemplary in its inclusiveness, innovative approaches to community participation, comprehensiveness and clarity, resulting in a HUD award of \$1.1 million and leveraging of \$3.6 million in cash, goods and services; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council does hereby commend and thank the Department of Human Service Programs, the homeless provider and consumer community, and especially Bread and Jams and Solutions at Work for these accomplishments on behalf of those in need, and for their ongoing work in this area.

In City Council August 4, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



c/o SEIU

145 Tremont St., Ste. 202

Boston, MA 02111

Phone: (617) 482-4471 Fax: (617) 482-6521

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/29/97TO: Kathy Born
Vice - Mayor
City of CambridgeFAX #: 617-349 4287# OF PAGES (including cover): 2FROM: Lisbeth Melendez - Boston Public Action UFWNOTES: Please read attached draft & let me
know if there is anything that should be
changed.I thank you again for your cooperation
on this matterLisbeth

Draft for City Of Cambridge Resolution in Support of the Strawberry Workers

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- WHEREAS, FARM WORKERS TOILING IN STRAWBERRY FIELDS ARE AMONG THE MOST EXPLOITED WORKERS IN THE NATION; AND
- WHEREAS OVER TWENTY THOUSAND WOMEN, MAN AND CHILDREN WORKING IN CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FIELDS TYPICALLY SPEND TEN TO TWELVE HOURS A DAY PICKING FRUIT FROM ANKLE LEVEL PLANTS, SUFFER CHRONIC BACK PAIN AND INJURIES, AND EXPERIENCE THE DANGEROUS EFFECTS OF PESTICIDE POISONING; AND
- WHEREAS STRAWBERRY WORKERS HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PAY RAISE ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL WAGES FOR TEN YEARS; AND
- WHEREAS MOST STRAWBERRY WORKERS HAVE FEW OR NO MEDICAL BENEFITS, HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND OBLIGED TO USE BATHROOMS IN THE FIELDS THAT ARE FILTHY; AND
- WHEREAS A FEW LARGE "COOLERS" CORPORATIONS MOST SHOULDERS MOST OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING A RATIONAL SYSTEM FOR LABOR RELATIONS IN THE STRAWBERRY INDUSTRY; AND
- WHEREAS EIGHT LARGE "COOLERS" EXERCISE GREAT CONTROL OVER ROUGHLY TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY STRAWBERRY GROWERS BY SUPPLYING THEM WITH LOANS AND PLANTS FROM NURSERIES, BY PACKING AND MARKETING THE CROP, BY DEVELOPING VARIETIES OF STRAWBERRIES, BY AND BY SETTING THE PRICE; AND
- WHEREAS OVER TWENTY THOUSAND STRAWBERRY WORKERS ARE TIRED OF LABORING UNDER THESE TERRIBLE CONDITIONS AND SEEK SAFETY, SECURITY AND A VOICE ON THE JOB; AND
- WHEREAS THE UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA ARE ORGANIZING A CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE SUCH SAFETY, SECURITY AND VOICE ON THE JOB; NOW THEREFORE BE IT
- RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE HEREBY COMMENDS THE UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA FOR ITS EFFORTS IN PROTECTING STRAWBERRY FIELD WORKERS AND EXPRESSES ITS INDIGNATION AT THE ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST THEM; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THEIR RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TO THE UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA; AND BE IT FURTHER
- RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CALL UPON AREA SUPERMARKET OWNERS TO SIGN ONTO THE PLEDGE.

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council does hereby commend and thank the Department of Human Service Programs, the homeless provider and consumer community, and especially Bread and Jams and Solutions at Work for these accomplishments on behalf of those in need, and for their ongoing work in this area.



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Consent Order #136

Entire
memb.
S-436

Mayor Russell re: Commend and thank
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ORDER ADOPTED