



City of Cambridge

Department of Human Service Programs

51 Inman Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139 498-9076

January 21, 1983

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Jill Herold *JH*
Assistant City Manager
for Human Services

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the planning effort undertaken by the Department of Human Services to establish a Senior Center at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue. This center is intended to provide health and social services to the older population of North and West Cambridge which had been underserved. Through the cooperation of a number of local agencies, which will share offices on a rotating basis, the center will be able to provide as many as 14 distinct services in a 700 SF space, and to serve over 200 individuals per week.

The space on the first floor of 2050 Massachusetts Avenue which the center will occupy was originally designated by the Executive Office of Communities and Development for commercial use. The Cambridge Housing Authority and its citizen advisory group have, however, responded favorably to the Department of Human Service Programs' plan to use the space as a service center, and have requested permission from EOCD to make available to the Department a minimum of one bay (700 SF) or, ideally, 2 bays (1,400 SF).

The use of this space as a service center will have a potentially great effect on the well-being of over 7,600 elders who live to the West and North of Harvard Square. Geographical distance from providers, poor public transportation and inadequate outreach have in large part deprived this population of access to services.

In order to help alleviate the problem, ten elderly services providers involved in exploratory planning with the D. H. S. P. have expressed interest in locating personnel at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue part-time and using the center as a base for outreach for the local elderly population. The services which will be provided in this way include:

- . case management provided through Somerville/
Cambridge Elder Services, Inc.;

Civic Unity 498-9018 Recreation 498-9028 Council on Aging / Elderly Services 498-9039

Community and Youth Services 498-9037/9072

- . psychological counseling through the Somerville/Cambridge Mental Health and Retardation Center's Geriatric Service;
- . medical screening and clinic treatment through local hospitals and the Cambridge Visiting Nursing Association;
- . dietary evaluation and counseling, also by the above;
- . fuel assistance through the Department of Human Service Programs;
- . Information and referral through the Council on Aging (D. H. S. P.);
- . In-home visiting through the Council on Aging;
- . income tax assistance through the Council on Aging;
- . Peer support groups for elders and support groups for families of impaired elders, through the Council on Aging;
- . Educational and recreational activities through the Council on Aging;
- . Housing assistance by the Elderly Housing Assistance Program;
- . Employment services through Elder-Hire;

These services can all be provided in one bay (700 SF) on the first floor of the planned building. If a second bay can be obtained, the Department of Human Service Programs will seek to establish a small-scale adult day care program in the additional space. Adult day care has proved to be an effective way of preventing the premature institutionalization of frail older persons; local day health care providers are collaborating with the Department in seeking to expand services for this large and growing population at risk. This service would add about 50 participants per week to the clientele of the center, for a total of approximately 250 persons per week.

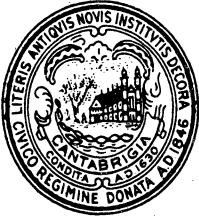
The initial cost of finishing and equipping commercial space at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue for use as a service center will be approximately \$14/SFT., or \$20,000 for two bays. Continuing costs for operating the center will be modest. Rent on the order of \$2/SFT to the Housing Authority, and provision of a full-time coordinator for center activities, will be the largest items;

Robert W. Healy, 1/21/83.

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both can be managed within the Department's current Elderly Services budget. Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services, Inc. has indicated that grant funding may be available for a portion of finishing costs, however, the allocation of Russell School monies to the project will be of fundamental importance in implementing the plan.

The plan for development of a senior service center at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue has attracted broad support in the elderly services community. Not only does it offer opportunity to significantly improve access to services for over 7,600 elders, it provides a demonstration of one way in which inter-agency cooperation can result in intensely productive cost-effective use of resources.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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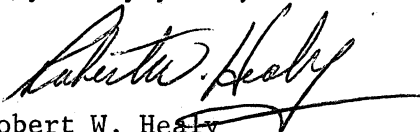
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

January 21, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a report from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, relative to the establishment of a Senior Center at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

U-52

Re: comm. from Jill Herold, Asst. City Manager
for Human Services Re: establishment of a
senior citizens center at 2050 Mass. Avenue.

In City Council,

January 24, 1983

1/24/1983

-P/lead
on

File