



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER

Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

ELIZABETH EPSTEIN

Deputy Director for
Community Development

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Susan B. Schlesinger *SB*
Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Re: Community Development Award

Date: December 10, 1996

I am pleased to inform you that the Hampshire/Columbia 16-unit home ownership project (the "Blouin" Project) has received an award from the National Community Development Association in a nationwide competition. This project succeeded due to the vision of the City Manager and the support of the City Council and several partners. Information about the award won by the project is provided below. This is an extremely competitive award and we are pleased to have received it.

Background In 1987, the National Community Development Association established the *Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Awards* to recognize exemplary uses of CDBG funds in addressing "the needs of families, homes and neighborhoods".

The Cambridge Entry As you are aware the *Neighborhood Four 16 unit-unit Homeownership Project* was developed by a partnership of the Cambridge Community Development Department with Neighborhood Four, Homeowners's Rehab Inc., Just-A-Start Corporation and the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust.

The Winning Ingredients The Cambridge entry won this award primarily because:

- There was an extremely high level of community participation in the planning process for the project, leading to its success;
- The homeownership project was generated by a Neighborhood Four Study in which Neighborhood Four and the Community Development Department were equal partners - followed by three years of development that involved Neighborhood Four as a key participant in decision-making at every step along the way;
- The development-partnership produced cutting-edge techniques and procedures transferable to future affordable homeownership projects nationwide;
- Project quality in both the final product and the development process was of an unusually high order.

The Awards Ceremony Awards (six nationwide) will be presented at the National Community Development Association's *Awards Breakfast* (Sunday, January 19, 1997) in conjunction with the U.S. Conference of Mayors at Washington D.C.'s Capitol Hilton Hotel.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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18.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

December 16, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached for your information a communication from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger, relative to the Hampshire/Columbia 16-unit home ownership project (the "Blouin" Project) receiving an award from the National Community Development Association in a nationwide competition.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #18

5-6/8

Relative to the Hampshire/Columbia 16-unit home ownership project (the "Blouin" Project) receiving an award from the National Community Development Association in a nationwide competition.

In City Council December 16, 1996

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