



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

May 11, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

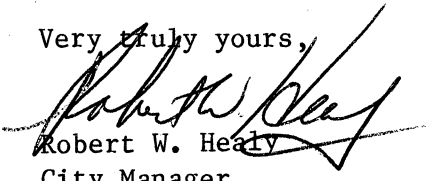
With reference to City Council Order No. 20 of May 4, 1987, on Thursday, May 7, 1987, the City met separately with representatives of the Harvard Community Health Plan and officials from eighteen City and School Department unions functioning as the statutorily provided Employee Advisory Committee on Insurance. The history of the HCHP involvement with Cambridge Hospital and its role as a provider of health service for our employees was reviewed. The fiscal difficulties resulting from the loss of HCHP business at the Hospital was reviewed. The contents and thrust of the Council Order was reviewed. The City made clear its desire for additional HCHP business and for the option for plan members, particularly City employees, to be able to select Cambridge Hospital for treatment.

HCHP indicated a desire to continue more intensive discussions with the Hospital concerning a broader role there, including, perhaps, providing the option for plan members to select Cambridge Hospital as a treatment site. Additional meetings to pursue these arrangements have been scheduled.

The Advisory Committee on Health Insurance expressed a general desire to assist the Hospital in a manner that would not have an adverse affect on their memberships. They suggested that an employee attitude survey concerning quality, satisfaction, dissatisfaction, etc., with all the health insurance programs be conducted, and plans were made to go ahead with this. This survey will give us a better idea of the perceived impact on our employees if an action as drastic as eliminating HCHP as an option were carried forward. The Committee agreed to meet again on May 14, 1987, to continue the discussion. The open enrollment period to allow employees to switch plans or for those not now enrolled to enroll was delayed by two weeks, to assess development in the negotiations.

Based on these positive developments and the indication from HCHP that progress could be made, I recommend that any public hearing be postponed. This should facilitate the negotiation process at a critical juncture.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy

City Manager

RWH/b

Re: the loss of HCHP business at Cambridge Hospital & recommending the postponement of a public hearing on this matter until present negotiations are completed.

In City Council,

May 4, 1987

C. D. Nathan

City Manager be authorized
to set up a meeting
to discuss the issue of
health benefits

~~to be~~