



CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

675 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

(617) 864-3020

Robert Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

September 22, 2003

RECEIVED
2003 SEP 24 AM 10:43
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am writing in response to City Council Order No. 27, dated September 8, 2003, that requested information on the emergency switches in resident units. Pull cords are located in the bedroom and bathroom of apartments in all our elderly developments. Should a resident in distress pull the switch cord, a light goes on over the resident's apartment door and a buzzer sounds in the hall. Although the emergency switch is not connected to a central notification panel, the buzzer continues to sound until the switch is reset in the apartment. Anyone who hears the buzzer go off, whether it's a neighbor or staff, is instructed to call 911 so emergency personnel can respond. These procedures are part of the orientation that housing managers discuss with residents when they first move into their apartments.

For your information, a notification panel is included as part of the comprehensive modernization at the JFK Apartments because of its assisted living component and 24 hour staffing. Unfortunately, the cost to retrofit such a system in our other elderly high-rise buildings is cost prohibitive, with estimates ranging from \$1500-\$2500 per apartment, and not feasible without adequate monitoring of a notification panel.

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Wuenschel
Executive Director

Consent Agenda #11

Transmitting communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to **Awaiting Report Item Number 03-102**, regarding a report on how the Cambridge Housing Authority's emergency switches in resident units function.

In City Council September 29, 2003

**TABLED ON MOTION OF
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY**



11.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Voice: 617.349.4300 Fax: 617.349.4307 TTY: 617.349.4242 Web: www.cambridgcma.gov

September 29, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item Number 03-102, regarding a report on how the Cambridge Housing Authority's emergency switches in resident units function, received from Cambridge Housing Authority Executive Director Daniel J. Wuenschel.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #11

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4325

Transmitting communication from
Robert W. Healy, City Manager,
relative to **Awaiting Report Item
Number 03-102**, regarding a report
on how the Cambridge Housing
Authority's emergency switches in
resident units function.

In City Council September 29, 2003

**TABLED ON MOTION OF
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY**

In City Council December 22, 2003

**PLACED ON FILE
PURSUANT TO ORDER #1
OF DECEMBER 22, 2003**