



City of Cambridge

2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 1, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: This Council's avowed and varied efforts to provide affordable housing for low and moderate income persons must embrace not only long range accomplishment of that goal but also be characterized by a sense of immediacy, a sense of "now", and this especially for individual persons as well as for multi-member families. There must be a place in our efforts for the single room occupant (SRO) who today is homeless. The single room occupant must not be the forgotten person of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS: An opportunity to do precisely that is before us with the plans of Second Home, a non-profit corporation (profile attached), to provide housing and support to 10 presently homeless individual persons who are beyond shelters and who have been through a transitional program and are housing ready by purchasing the property at 30 Pearl Street, Cambridge for which, according to representatives of Second Home, a closing date of December 31, 1990 has been set. As of the moment, Second Home continues to seek additional funding sources to complete this purchase; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager bring this matter before the members of the Affordable Housing Trust as soon as possible with the request that they review, analyze and render judgement about distributing funds from the city's Affordable Housing Trust to Second Home for the 30 Pearl Street purchase, in an effort to provide affordable housing to homeless persons who will thereby have an opportunity for housing as single room occupants; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this Council with the decision of the Affordable Housing Trust members as soon as possible.

In City Council October 1, 1990.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

SECOND HOME IN CAMBRIDGE

Second Home is a non-profit corporation, 501-C-3, whose goal is to provide housing and support to homeless people beyond shelters. Second Home operates on a basis of self-empowerment models and emphasizes community and interdependence. People who have experienced homelessness, know they clearly need affordable housing and the support and love within a community to redress the alienation they have experienced on the street and in the shelters.

Two examples of how Second Home has successfully used this theory and put it into practice are located in Dorchester and in Roxbury. The Dorchester house, which is permanent housing has fifteen residents and has been in operation for five years. The Roxbury house, has twenty-one residents and provides transitional housing. (attach both testimonials and list Board of Directors.)

Second Home's desire is to provide permanent housing to men and women who are stable enough to live permanently within a community. The goal of Second Home is to give these people a community in which they can develop on all levels. These people have already been through a transitional program and the reason they are not in independent housing is either economic or they have chosen to be in a group situation. The only criteria other than that the individual is housing ready is that they have either been homeless or are currently homeless. Some examples of such individuals follow:

- a) A 34 year old recovering alcoholic sober for the last two years. Presently, she is living in a transitional housing program in Cambridge and is unable to afford rent at current market rates.
- b) Irish immigrant in her fifties living on the streets for the last seven years. No discernable mental illness but is now beyond the age that she can retrain for gainful employment. Her income is limited to relief benefits.

Selection Process for the individuals entering Second Home in Cambridge will have three stages.

- 1) Professional Stage: Ideally a staff person from the Multi-Service Center, a person with substance abuse expertise and a staff member from Second Home.
- 2) Second Stage: Interviewed by Second Home Staff and a member of the immediate neighborhood to include the professional assessment.
- 3) Third Stage: The residents of Second Home Inc. of Cambridge. This stage applies only after the original residents have been chosen and there is vacancy which becomes available.

After having been selected into the program individuals will be expected to abide by some simple rules and integrate into the community. No violence, weapons or verbal abuse is tolerated. No alcohol/drugs or criminal activity/behavior is allowed. Depending on the severity of the infraction a member of the house will either receive demerits or full

expulsion from the program.

Second Home Inc. in Cambridge will provide cooking and laundry facilities on the premises. In addition, in-house referral services and social services at the Multi-Service Center in Cambridge are offered. No violence, weapons or verbal abuse is tolerated. No alcohol/drugs or criminal activity/behavior is allowed. Depending on the severity of the infraction a member of the house will either receive demerits or full expulsion from the program.

It is expected that the individuals attend regular house hold meetings, are responsible for different chores as they are assigned, pay their rent each month and share at least one meal together a day. Frequency of meal sharing may be increased as house hold decides. The necessity of electing any House officers will be determined by house members.

Most importantly it is expected that each resident be productive during their day and attend self-help groups where applicable and utilize the social services offered for their own personal growth. Any resident without a job will be required to attend a day program as appropriate. Monthly individual meetings with a staff person will take place to evaluate the progress of each member.

The house will have two part-time staff people. The day staff person, an experienced person from Second Home would work daily from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. The night staff person would sleep in the house and be on duty from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. In the case of staff turnover or vacation, experienced individuals from Second Home are available as necessary

A meeting will be scheduled to seek input on the program from the neighbors. Prior to then please address any questions to Patricia Reinhardt 864-1507 or Stewart Guernsey 436-6726.



City of Cambridge

7

IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

October 1, 1990

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OCT. 1 1990
City Council _____

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Joseph E. Conerton

City Clerk

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Order # 2

F-554

Councillor Walsh re: plans for a Second
Home.

In City Council,

Oct. 1, 1990

Order adopted