

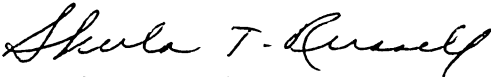
At this time the Committee heard from the Transportation Manager for Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services who outlined the seven programs that are offered by this Agency. Some of these transportation programs have eligibility requirements mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The seven programs include nutritional, medical, socialization, shopping, 3B (advocacy and nursing home), escort and respite.

Councillor Russell questioned the participation level in the Cambridge Taxi Discount Program. Ms. Madden responded that to date 93 individuals have participated but there still remains problems with the taxi operators.

The Chair announced that at the next hearing, that the taxi discount program would be further discussed and the Chairman of the License Commission would be invited to discuss the remaining problems surrounding the Taxi industry.

The meeting as adjourned at 12:05 pm.

For the Committee,


Councillor Sheila T. Russell

recently put out to bid for the completion of the North Cambridge site and that she favored the keeping of the Multi-Service Center in the Central Square area.

Councillor Russell concluded this aspect of the hearing by asking Ms. Madden for the goals and objectives of the Council of Aging for the upcoming fiscal year.

At this time the Committee heard from John Long, Executive Director of SCM transportation for an update of services currently being provided to Cambridge residents. Mr. Long provided the Committee with an outline of SCM services which he stated was mostly medical transportation with limited social transportation. He also stated that SCM services individuals over the age of 60 and the physically challenged.

Mr. Long further explained the training program that is employed after the hiring process is completed for drivers. According to Ms. Madden, the COA has not received any complaints regarding SCM drivers.

Councillor Russell questioned the financial commitment of the City to SCM. Mr. Long stated that the City contracts thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) per annum for the Dial A Ride program. In comparison to the City of Medford which contracts sixty five thousand dollars (\$65,000) and the City of Somerville sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000). Councillor Danehy then questioned Mr. Long if the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) was sufficient to meet the service levels required by Cambridge residents. Mr. Long responded that an additional thirty to forty thousand dollars (\$30-40,000) was needed.

City of Cambridge

In City Council June 13, 1988

The Committee on Elder Affairs conducted a public hearing on Thursday, May 19, 1988 beginning at 10:08 a.m. in the Ackermann Room, City Hall. This hearing was called to discuss the overall delivery of Elder Services in the City of Cambridge and to discuss various transportation problems as they relate to the delivery of said services.

Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Chair of the above Committee, introduced Jeanne M. Madden, Executive Director of the Council on Aging (COA) to outline the organizational structure of the department and to discuss the variety of programs and services offered to elder residents.

Ms. Madden stated that the purpose of the COA was to provide information and referral to elders; to advise the City Council; and to provide advocacy for elders. The organizational structure of the department includes six (6) full-time equivalents and five (5) part-time equivalents. In addition to these positions, a host of elder volunteers assist in various departmental sponsored programs and projects.

Ms. Madden outlined departmental activities that ranged from housing to health to transportation to income. At this time, Councillor Russell questioned the status of the Prime Time Program. Ms. Madden stated that this employment program will expire on June 15, 1988, but the Somerville/Cambridge Elders Employment Program will assist in placing those Cambridge residents interested in this service.

Councillor Russell questioned the status of the North Cambridge Senior Center and the Multi-Service Center. Ms. Madden responded that the City has

REPORT

Committee on Elder Affairs

Re: overall delivery of Elder Services in
Cambridge & various transportation problems
relating to delivery of said services.

In City Council,

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6-13-88

Placed on File