



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

March 1, 1996

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

The Honorable, The City Council,

I have been working with The Cambridge Hospital staff and other City departments to create a new facility for the Windsor Street Neighborhood Health Center and the Cambridge Housing Authority's community programs. The proposed new health center facility will be a modern, well laid-out, attractive facility providing state-of-the-art services to improve the health of the Area 4 neighborhood into the 21st century. This new multi-service center will be located at 119 Windsor Street, a building recently vacated by the Polaroid Corporation.

As part of the planning of the new facility, The Cambridge Hospital and the Cambridge Housing Authority have held an extensive number of community meetings. The meetings have been very useful in eliciting and responding to concerns of abutters, community members and community agencies. During these very productive discussions, we have drafted and re-drafted a series of commitments by the City and the hospital to the community. The commitments relate to administrative issues like outreach, access, hiring and the development of a new community advisory committee, as well as design, parking, traffic and pedestrian safety issues.

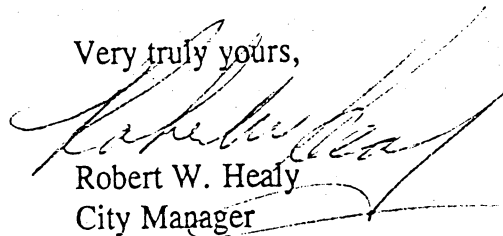
I am very pleased to be able to report that there is widespread support for this project in the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents feel that we have been very responsive to their concerns and I feel very positively about the commitments we have made to the community. Last night the Cambridge Hospital sought required relief from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) around both use and parking issues. There was significant attendance by the community at this meeting. I am delighted to report that all in attendance were in complete support for the proposed facility and in support of the relief requested by the hospital. The Area 4 Coalition, Area 4 Crime Task Force, the Washington Elms/Newtowne Court Tenants Council, the Recreational Activities Program, Head Start and other community agencies all provided letters of support to the BZA as well as testified in support of the Hospital. Not one individual or agency spoke in opposition to the proposal. The BZA unanimously approved all of the relief requested, conditional upon compliance with the design, traffic and parking, and pedestrian safety provisions agreed to with the community. Within three weeks I will be forwarding to you a recommendation relative to an appropriation from Hospital cash reserves for the purposes of acquiring 119 Windsor Street from the Polaroid Corporation.

I am very proud of the collaborative effort that has taken place over the past several months among all of the involved parties including the City, the hospital, Cambridge Housing Authority and most importantly all of the community agencies and members. The proposed new

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Windsor Street facility will be the cornerstone of our effort to improve the health people who live in Area 4 and we are very enthusiastic about this innovative project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Healy', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

5-116
Communication received from Robert Healy

Regarding New facility for Windsor Street
Neighborhood Health Center and Cambridge
Housing Authority.

In City Council March 1, 1996