



City of Cambridge

11.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 26, 1992

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
MAYOR REEVES
VICE MAYOR CYR
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council of the Silver Anniversary Celebration of a thriving Cambridge business, Modern Continental Construction Co., Inc., to be held on November 8, 1992 at the President John F. Kennedy Library and Museum; and

WHEREAS: This firm was incorporated on June 7, 1967 and located itself on Main Street, Cambridge, and presently its corporate headquarters is located on Massachusetts Avenue, North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The primary business and origin of Modern Continental Companies is large heavy construction projects and is currently active in twenty job sites ranging from the Central Artery 3rd Harbor Tunnel to the Sebago Lake Treatment Plant/Sebago Maine; and

WHEREAS: Modern Continental Construction Co., Inc. has grown from its two co-founders Lelio Marino, President and Kenneth Anderson, Treasurer to a firm employing 500 people with annual revenues of \$200 million; and

WHEREAS: Modern Continental Construction Co., Inc. is deeply involved in community activities ranging from the Youville Hospital to Boy and Girl Scouts to North Cambridge Little League Baseball League to the Dante Alegheri to Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Modern Continental Construction Co., Inc. on its Silver Anniversary; and be it further

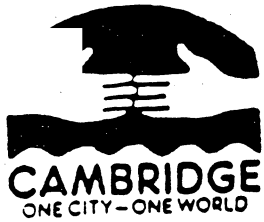
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation to Mr. Lelio Marino on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 26, 1992.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



CAMBRIDGE PEACE COMMISSION

A Department of the City of Cambridge
City Hall Annex 57 Inman St.
Cambridge MA 02139 (617) 349-4694



To: Robert Healy, City Manager
From: Cathy Hoffman, Director - Cambridge Peace Commission

Re. Order # 11, dated 10/5/92

In response to the request for information on the role of the Peace Commission in fostering non-violence and peaceful attitudes within the schools, I am pleased to share with the manager and the Council some of the work of the past year.

The urgency for listening to the problems of violence in the schools and offering teachers and students strategies for dealing with violence has never been greater.

On a national scope, the United States now has the distinction of being the most violent country in the world. According to a 1991 Senate study, the U.S. leads the world in homicide, rapes, and incarceration. Here in Cambridge, recent, dramatic events punctuate an on-going escalation of violence with direct effects on the schools. A 15 year old Cambridge student and 2 teenage friends have been charged with killing an MIT student after playing a "knock-out" game in which a random person is identified and knocked down. As the nineties progress, a growing number of youth -- boys and girls -- carry weapons for "protection." Safety specialists at the High School have confiscated a frightening collection of kitchen knives, switch blades and other street fighting knives, razor blades, scissors, guns, fake guns, chemical sprays, and other weapons from students. Since 1988, when the School Department first introduced a weapons policy, the number of weapons-related expulsion hearings has increased from 26 (1988-89) to 32 (1989-90) to 60 (1990-91) to 56 (1991-mid '92).

Weapons violations are not limited to high school students. Both knives and guns have been seized from elementary and middle school children. Only a few weeks ago, a knife was confiscated from an eleven year old involved in a fight at a Community School. According to the police, the Safety specialists at the High School, and Youth Center directors, even "good kids" carry knives for "protection." As the head of Safety at the High School put it, "kids fear the [School's weapons] policy, but they fear the community more." In fact, these youth experts estimate that anywhere from a quarter to a third of adolescents carry weapons on a regular basis, and estimates range as high as 50% or more for teens in "certain" neighborhoods. These experts are quick to point out that the majority of youth have no intention of actually using the weapon; they hope it will deter potential assailants. Unfortunately, as more and more teens carry weapons, these "deterrents" will become the instruments of mutual -- and sometimes mortal -- injury.

As economic inequalities, social discrimination and cultural violence

grow, schools are being asked to respond to children and their families who are experiencing violence on many levels. Elementary age students are sharing stories in school of domestic abuse at home. Children of color are not seeing positive images of themselves reflected in school curriculum. Television and media programming promotes violence as exciting and without consequences. U.S. government policies continue to disenfranchise families and poor people by cutting basic services even further. Teachers are being asked to provide more and more with less and less.

The Peace Commission, with a staff of one and some volunteer Commissioners, has tried to promote non-violence at the school level through initiating programs, supporting ones which exist, and collaborating with school and community efforts to develop comprehensive policies which foster a community in which difference is understood and celebrated, in which the sources of violence are recognized and confronted and where all members of the school community can be part of an effort for equity. Eliminating violence in the schools will never be possible within a society which promotes it. However, the Commission is committed to supporting the seeds for spaces in which peace-making becomes a preference.

Some of these efforts include:

* Working with the School Department to create curriculum on violence prevention.

In cooperation with Drop-Out Prevention and the Health Education Department, materials are being developed for 4 units of violence prevention curriculum to be integrate into the curriculum for all elementary grades from Kindergarten though eighth grade.

In the spring of 1991, the Director co-led a series of groups on conflict resolution at the Middle School level. A 6 session program for 6th graders at the Agassiz School focussed on looking at some of the conflicts between students. 4 four session courses of 6th graders at the Harrington School focused on the emergence of gangs, violence in the neighborhoods and the home, and finding ways to stop violence.

Beginning this fall, the Director is leading a session on violence prevention at all four elementary school Release Days touching all K-4 teachers. Working with the Peaceable School Project committee, each workshop contains a survey for teachers about violence within their schools and some exercises and resources on conflict resolution and community-building.

The Peace Commission has begun to develop a proposal for a "course" at the High School designed to explore the nature of violence for youth (personal, community and neighborhood, institutional) and to create alternatives to violence. The Commission has met with CRLS administrators, curriculum coordinators and teachers and community educators involved with violence prevention and prejudice reduction.

* Creating training opportunities for Teachers and Staff on violence prevention and Conflict Resolution

Through the Violence Prevention Task Force, the Director is

collaborating with Steven Brion-Meisels and Joyce Johnson to develop and lead a series of 3 Release Day workshops for all CRLS staff on dealing with violence. The sessions would focus on sharing awareness and experience of fear and violence at CRLS, some strategies for intervening about violence, and dealing with the violence which is based in race, class, gender and sexuality.

Through the Peaceable Schools Collaboration with Lesley College and Wheelock, we are seeking funding for a "Summer Institute" to offer teachers system-wide training on violence prevention and conflict resolution.

The Director is participating in the training sessions offered by the Violence Prevention Project at Boston City Hospital in order to make it available for Cambridge.

*Working with youth to build peace-oriented communities

Continuing its successful summer program of community service and international cooperation, the Peace Commission sponsored the 7th summer Work-for-Peace Camp during the summer of 1992. The Commission recruited a multi-racial group of 15 Cambridge High School students and recent graduates for the summer to renovate low-income housing through Just-A-Start. The youth met weekly in the spring to create a special project on understanding racism entitled "Recovery from the Discovery". The youth hosted 18 foreign volunteers for 3 weeks in July from all Europe and Cuba. The group worked together in community service to Cambridge, participated in discussions and shared in workshops with representatives from 4 Native American nations. The young people created a performance about the roots of violence in the Columbus discovery and violence today. They performed it for the public and for Day Camp children.

Based on the success of the summer peace camps, The Commission is seeking funding a year-round Youth Peace Corps in the city of Cambridge. Young people would be paid to intern with local community organizing projects and participate in an Institute for Social Justice. They would develop skills to combat violence and social problems and learn to identify the sources of violence within Cambridge's neighborhoods. The Commission has met with youth groups in the Boston area, developed an advisory board for the project and submitted proposals to local foundations. Last week, the Hyams Foundation awarded the project \$15,000 to begin.

* Working with teachers and community-based programs to create programs and materials which promote understanding about Cambridge's diverse communities

A major participant in the Cambridge - El Salvador Sister Project, the Commission established an education committee for the Sister City Project made up of Cambridge teachers, day care staff and citizens and sent a two teacher's delegation to San Jose las Flores in April and July of 1992. The delegations were comprised of teachers from the Kennedy, Maynard, Harrington, King Schools, the School Department and Cambridge social service agencies. The April delegation videotaped their 7 days in the community and took slides for use in their classrooms. April delegates shared their resources in more than 30

classroom presentations.

Utilizing materials gathered from our Salvadoran sister city and augmented with teacher's materials from the Amigos and bi-lingual programs, the Peace Commission has developed a "Central America Kit". The Kit consists of music, articles, children's books in Spanish and English, examples of daily life, exercise suggestions for teachers, maps and videos. The Peace Commission catalogued all the contents and cooperated with the School Sister City office to circulate the materials to each elementary school in the spring through the libraries.

This past year, the Commission revised the a 6 box collection developed by the Commission on Haiti and Haitian culture and circulated them through all the elementary schools.

The Commission director has been an active participant with the Africa Sister City Campaign to select a city in Africa for exchange and as a vehicle for raising awareness about the real experiences and contributions of people in Africa.

* Working with the Multicultural Committee to develop inclusive materials about the Columbus Encounters and promote multicultural guidelines for the School Department

The Peace Education committee has joined with the Multicultural Education Committee to develop materials about "Discovering Columbus" for use in the 500th anniversary. The Committee organized 2 one day workshops in March for more than 65 secondary and elementary teachers on the quincentenary. The workshops were followed up with 2 days of workshops in June which produced a 140 page packet of developmentally appropriate materials for use in all classrooms for the fall of 1992. The Spring issue of the Peace News/Peace Views newsletter was devoted to materials about the quincentenary to prepare teachers for the fall.

The Commission helped to sponsor and coordinate a day program with Cambridge teachers to develop guidelines for multicultural education for the School department. Teachers, students and staff met, reviewed guidelines from other cities, and created a Cambridge based multi-disciplinary approach to teaching and learning.

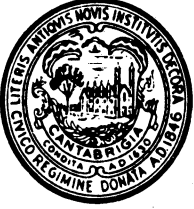
* Seeking funding and policies to go beyond piecemeal programs and create holistic approaches to building communities free of violence.

The Commission has worked collaboratively with Lesley College, Wheelock College and the Department of Human Services to create a proposal for developing a "peaceable school" program. If funded, the proposal would focus on bringing intensive support and resources to an elementary school (and house at the High School). The concept would include course content, school management approaches, discipline orientation and cooperative teaching models. Joint meetings in the fall of 1991 have produced a working document for the "peaceable school" and a corps of people committed to seeking funding. During the spring of 1992, the committee worked with members of the School Department and the Department of Human Service to write a proposal for a project based in 3 cluster areas (each consisting of an elementary school, Head Start program and community based children's program) in

which conflict resolution and cooperation would be built through a community gardening model.

The Commission Director has been an active participant in the Violence Prevention task Force initiated by Henrietta Davis of the School Committee and has just been appointed a co-chair. The Task Force has brought together school staff with community agencies, youth workers, police and court personnel, neighborhood workers and youth. The Task Force has created a network of the services available for young people and initiated several proposals for funding violence prevention programming. In the aftermath of the Rodney King Decision, the Commission worked with the task Force and the Black Pastor's Association to organize a series of panel discussions with High school students and to organize opportunities for the community to express their reactions.

These projects mentioned are only ones in which the Peace Commission has played some role. It is important to say that there are many more efforts happening within the schools to foster and end to violence. Through Steven Brion-Meisels and Hooking Kids On Schools, through the Health and Physical Education Department, through the Student Service Center at CRLS, many initiatives are being tried. Outside community agencies such as the Dating Violence Intervention Project with Carol Souza have been running programs for years trying to get them adopted in a comprehensive fashion by the schools. Within schools, multicultural and peace education committees of teachers continue to create programs and try for integrating them into the fabric of their schools. Finally, there are many individual teachers, media specialists, staff developers and support staff who spend their own time (and often money) to make a peace-oriented, non-violent, multicultural approach a part of their school communities. It would be a great moment when they could receive the support and appreciation they deserve by making peace-making the centerpiece for our schools and our city.



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ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

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October 26, 1992

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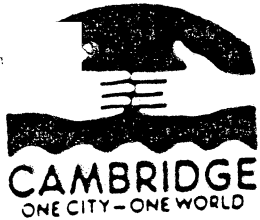
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Consent Agenda # 7

S. J. 808

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In City Council,

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Placed on file