

TO: Robert W. Healy

FROM: Jill Herold *JH*

RE: Armory Shelter

DATE: November 19, 1990

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The Overflow Shelter, operated by Positive Lifestyles, Inc., will be opening this evening in the Cambridge Armory. The sudden re-location to the Cambridge Armory was based on a decision by State officials in the National Guard and the Department of Public Welfare. The current site of the Newton Armory is no longer available due to the recent activation of the National Guard MP Unit assigned to the Newton Armory.

The Overflow Shelter is in its second year of operation and serves all the shelters in the Boston area by providing overflow space when any shelter reaches capacity. The maximum number of individuals who will be served in the Cambridge Armory is 200. No guests will be allowed to come to the Shelter on their own. All guests will be brought in by pre-arranged bus routes, in fact, the same pickup points currently used with the Newton Armory. All guests will also leave by bus and will be taken to Boston at 7AM. In order to insure safety, the same staffing model that was used in the Newton Armory will be used in the Cambridge Armory. There will be a Cambridge police detail officer as well as a National Guard person on duty at all times and the staff will be from Positive Lifestyles.

I spoke today with Jim Viola, the Director of Positive Lifestyles and Joseph Seriti, the Shelter Director. Both gentlemen were very willing to work with the City as they operate the shelter and are very open to designating specific beds for Cambridge referrals. They are quite adamant that they will not be in the Cambridge Armory any longer than three weeks. By such time they expect to have completed their previous plan of dispersing the 200 beds in community based sites around Boston. In the event that they have not accomplished this within a three week period they would then return to the Newton Armory. They were quite emphatic on this point.

I believe the staff are very willing to work cooperatively with the City and I intend to stay in close contact with them.

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