



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.
Commissioner

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Subject: Council Order 41, 6\25\90
11 January 1990

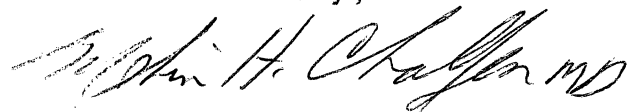
Dear Mr. Healy;

This Council Order was just received in this office today. The subject of Alzheimer's disease and the care of an increasing number of people with the disease is a serious and important issue of great concern. At present such patients are cared for at home as long as possible and then usually cared for in a Nursing Home. The issue of whether there should be facilities devoted entirely to the care of Alzheimer's patients is controversial. Experience is still being gained in some facilities where there are dedicated Alzheimer's units.

I would welcome an opportunity to determine if the City can increase its services and especially increase the physical facilities for the care of Alzheimer's patients. To reach that goal, however, examination of the factors involved apart from acquisition, construction or reconstruction costs indicates that there will be some changing factors that are not presently clear. One is the effect of the recently instituted Omnibus Reconciliation Act (OBRA) on new and continuing costs. OBRA changes the regulatory structure for Nursing Homes to improve quality of patient care with additional staffing and documentation thus increasing costs. Financing this type of personnel-intensive care will be even more difficult due to anticipated decreases from the state in rate setting and compensation to Nursing Homes in general and in particular to the Public Municipal Institutions (PMIs), such as Neville Manor or any other existing or new municipal Nursing Home. Certainly with those Alzheimer patients who need Nursing Home care the need is for an appropriate (high) number of well trained, dedicated and compassionate care-givers for whom appropriate, (also high) salaries are needed.

Given these serious costs and the present financial climate I am more concerned with maintaining the budget at Neville Manor at levels required for providing excellent care. This level itself will most likely engender the need of increased City of Cambridge support. At this time the financial climate indicates that efforts at exploring additional facilities for Alzheimer patients may be more productive in determining the feasibility of adding on a modest unit at Neville Manor. It is true that the same factors mentioned above (OBRA, PMI compensation decreases) will apply for more programs and space at Neville Manor but the size of the units can be controlled better by planning based on the slim resources that are predictable, to the best of our knowledge, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melvin H. Chalfen MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" at the end being more distinct.

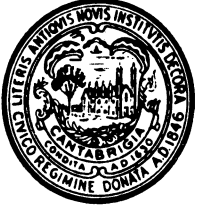
Melvin H. Chalfen, M.D.

MHC:vs

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

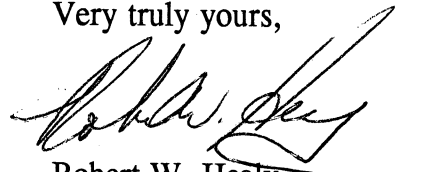
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 28, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 13, regarding Alzheimers disease, please find attached a report from Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health and Hospital.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachments

Agenda # 12

S- 193

Response to Awaiting Report Item
Number 12 regarding Alzheimers disease.

In City Council,

January 28, 1991

Placed on file