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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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October 20, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report 03-106 regarding the condition of the Cambridge Common, including public safety concerns, homelessness, drug activity, trash removal and future plans for improving the Common, Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson and DPW Commissioner Lisa Peterson report the following:

Directed Police Patrols were assigned to the Cambridge Common, supervised by the Sector Sergeants and reviewed by the Patrol Supervisors. These patrols were conducted randomly during each shift to ensure that there was no set routine that could be identified by potential offenders.

Park and Walks were also initiated beginning September 10th between the hours of 11:00 pm and 2:30 am. Since then, Police units are reporting that the Common is clear. Repeated patrols report that the homeless have moved from the Common for the time being. There have been no reports of any incidents of drug activity within the Common or arrests during this time period.

With regards to the maintenance of the Cambridge Common, in response to concerns of area residents, DPW assigns Park Maintenance crews to clean the Common five days per week. Plans are underway for the renovation of the Cambridge Common including the tot lot, enhanced tree planting, path surfacing, and upgraded fencing. A capital request for this work will be submitted for consideration during the FY05 budget process for inclusion in the capital plan.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

5309

Consent Agenda #15

Transmitting communication from
Robert W. Healy, City Manager,
relative to **Awaiting Report Item
Number 03-106**, regarding a report
on the condition of the Cambridge
Common.

In City Council October 20, 2003

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