



City of Cambridge

Department of Human Service Programs

51 Inman Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139 498-9076

To Robert W. Healy,
City Manager

Date: November 16, 1984

From Jill Herold *JH*
Asst. City Manager for Human Services

Ref:

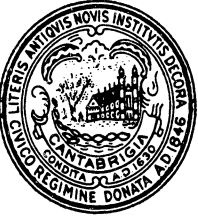
Subject Council Order No. 11 of October 22, 1984.

For the last two winters, staff of the Department of Human Services, including the Executive Director of the Civic Unity Committee, have worked closely with community groups, churches, and local realtors to identify both permanent and temporary sites for emergency shelter. A half dozen or so Cambridge churches have carefully considered taking on such a responsibility and reluctantly declined for a variety of reasons. University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square has for the last three years provided a temporary 20 bed shelter. The staff and volunteers of that program have received considerable assistance from the more established sheltering agencies as well as city agencies and, in turn are prepared to offer help to any new group.

None of the buildings currently owned by the city are available and/or suitable for such a facility; nor have any suitable state or federal buildings been identified. Though direct operating funds can generally be identified for emergency shelter purchase and/or rental funds are difficult to obtain, making most private properties unsuitable.

As part of the public education campaign associated with Homeless Awareness Week (Nov. 19 - 23), local papers have further publicized the need for such a temporary facility.

In addition, the Department of Human Services, the Cambridge Housing Authority, Shelter, Inc., and CASCAP have continued the search for suitable sites for the permanent shelter facilities to which state operating funds have already been committed. It should be noted that the city, through the Jobs Bill allocation of the Community Development Block Grant program, has committed \$30,000 to Shelter, Inc. until June 30, 1985 for the renovation of any suitable site that can be found.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

November 19, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 30 relative to a survey of all Cambridge buildings which could be used as temporary shelters this winter, enclosed please find copy of a report from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item No. 3

S- 705

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 30
relative to a survey of all Cambridge build-
ings which could be used as temporary shelters
this winter.

In City Council,

November 19, 1984

11/19/84

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