



City of Cambridge

O-14.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 18, 2001

COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: Elemental mercury and mercury compounds are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment and are a potential source of exposure to the community; and
- WHEREAS: There is widespread consensus that the (methly) mercury levels commonly found in freshwater fish pose a health risk to the public and wildlife; and
- WHEREAS: The American Public Health Association recognizes the human health impacts from mercury exposure and encourages "health care institutions to adopt policies that will lead toward the eventual elimination of the use of mercury-containing products;" and
- WHEREAS: There are recognized and widely accepted alternatives to mercury and mercury containing devices in healthcare; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is encouraging healthcare providers in the region to participate in the "Mercury Challenge Program" to find alternatives to using mercury in health care equipment and products; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge recognizes that incineration is a major contributor of man-made mercury emissions and the American Public Health Association urges all health care facilities to promptly eliminate mercury containing wastes from incinerator feedstock; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mount Auburn Hospital confirm a commitment to improving environmental management throughout their organizations, and that the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mount Auburn Hospital will manage, minimize and eliminate, whenever possible, the use of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mount Auburn Hospital are participating the "American Hospital Association/ Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum of Understanding" to eliminate mercury from healthcare; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mount Auburn Hospital continue to be committed to the health and welfare of the people of the City of Cambridge and the environment we all share; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council supports, endorses and commends all efforts to eliminate and/or reduce mercury use at the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Mount Auburn Hospital; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Public Health Department will promulgate a regulation banning the sale and distribution of mercury thermometers in the City of Cambridge and that the Mount Auburn Hospital, the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Cambridge Public Health Department will initiate a program to swap digital thermometers for mercury thermometers at the Mount Auburn Hospital, the Cambridge Hospital and City Hall on June 20, 2001 from 12 PM - 6 PM.

In City Council June 18, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

O-14.

MD

June 18, 2001

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Order #14

City Council support to eliminate and/or reduce mercury use at the Cambridge Public Health Department and program which will take place on June 20, 2001 from 12:00 noon -6:00 p.m. at City Hall, the Mount Auburn Hospital and the Cambridge Hospital where citizens can swap their mercury thermometers for digital thermometers free of charge.

Councillor Decker

In City Council June 18, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED