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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

February 25, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-258, regarding a report on forming a task force on career opportunities in Cambridge, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold reports the following:

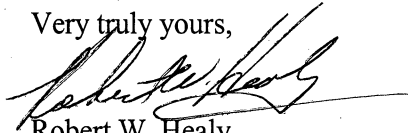
On January 29, 2002, Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi convened a meeting of key City representatives to discuss a suitable vehicle for creating a partnership between Cambridge businesses, universities, schools, residents and workforce and economic development professionals in order to improve employment prospects for Cambridge residents.

Several existing groups were identified as already working to forge similar partnerships including the Partnership for Public Education, the new Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) Advisory Committee and the Office of Workforce Development's Business Advisory Committee.

Although the key findings of the Community Development Report "Education and Skill for the New Economy: A Survey of Employment Trends in Cambridge" are relevant for both adults and young people the assembled group concluded that the timing is right to focus on youth and the Cambridge Public Schools.

Rather than launching a new task force at this time, the group recommended conducting a series of conversations with key stakeholders about using the results of the Community Development report as a catalyst for developing new types of internships and other career exploration opportunities for Cambridge students. The Department of Human Service Programs and the Office of Workforce Development could lead this effort, with close cooperation from the Community Development Department. Since the support of the Cambridge Public Schools will be essential for any initiative involving Cambridge students, it was decided that the next step would be to have a discussion with Superintendent Bobbie D'Alessandro regarding appropriate representation from the School Department in these conversations. The second conversation would take place with the two co-chairs of the Cambridge Partnership for Public Education, Paul Parravano and Kathleen Granchelli. Out of these and possibly other meetings, goals can be defined and strategies developed for creating new relationships between local businesses, City Departments and the Cambridge Public Schools leading to promising career opportunities for residents.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

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Consent Agenda #2

**Awaiting Report Item Number
01-258**, regarding a report on
forming a task force on career
opportunities in Cambridge.

In City Council February 25, 2002

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