

TT

## City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council 12-4, 2000

JT

Mga's Consent Agenda

| YEA | NAY | ABSENT | PRESENT |                            |
|-----|-----|--------|---------|----------------------------|
|     |     |        |         |                            |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Ms. Kathleen L. Born       |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Mr. James Braude           |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Ms. Henrietta Davis        |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Ms. Marjorie C. Decker     |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Vice Mayor David P. Maher  |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves      |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Mr. Michael A. Sullivan    |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. |
| ✓   |     |        |         | Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio |

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BETH RUBENSTEIN

Assistant City Manager for  
Community Development

MALAINA BOWKER

Deputy Director for  
Community Development

**To:** Robert W. Healy, City Manager

**From:** <sup>BR</sup> Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager  
for Community Development

**Date:** November 29, 2000

**Re:** Council Order #15 dated October 2, 2000: Report on funding sources for  
community planning.

In response to the above-referenced order, we report the following:

Through a recent state program, limited funds are available for municipalities to hire consultants to prepare Community Development Plans. The funds are available through the Community Development Plan program established by Executive Order 418 in January 2000, which also established the Housing Certification process that currently governs eligibility for state housing funds.

The Community Development Plan funds are limited to \$30,000 per municipality and are paid directly to approved consultants under a contract with the local Regional Planning Agency for an approved scope of work. The funds must be used to prepare a Community Development Plan, or a component thereof, as described in the state's guidance document "Building Vibrant Communities." The Community Development Plan must contain a series of GIS-based maps and images that indicate future land use objectives for the entire municipality in four core areas: economic development, open space and resource protection, housing, and transportation. The funds and planning guidance are targeted at communities that do not have planning staff or financial resources to develop such plans.

As you know, the Community Development Department is currently completing a major citywide planning effort embodied in the Planning Board's Citywide Rezoning Petition. We have also recently completed an extensive open space planning effort documented in the *Green Ribbon Open Space Report* issued in March 2000. In addition, a comprehensive planning study is underway in Eastern Cambridge and a new planning study will begin shortly in the Riverside area. Considerable city resources – both staff and financial – have been devoted to these planning efforts, as well as to on-going neighborhood studies.

Given these extensive planning efforts – including the city's recently enhanced use of GIS and sophisticated mapping tools – we believe these funds would duplicate on-going efforts and do not recommend pursuing them at this time.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Robert W. Healy, City Manager*

*Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

December 4, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-86, regarding a report on exploring the funding sources for community planning, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
Attachment



*2000 Things 2 Do in 2000*

S-416

Communication from Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager, relative to Awaiting  
Report Item Number 00-86, regarding  
a report on exploring the funding  
sources for community planning.

S-416

In City Council December 4, 2000

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