



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #3

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 5, 1999

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Council assign the City Council Priorities to Council committees and as recommended by the Government Operations Committee in the attached list, and that the committees review the implementation of these priorities twice a year, or more frequently in the discretion of the committee.

In City Council April 5, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

FY 2000 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

PRIORITY	MONITORING COMMITTEE
1. Maintain socio-economic diversity in the City of Cambridge. (Of particular concern is maintaining housing opportunities for middle and moderate income families, as well as low income families, in the City.) A very high priority strategy to this end is the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.	Housing and Community Development Committee
2. Establish and move forward on a capital plan for new and existing municipal buildings. (A new Police Station and Library are the highest priority capital items, equal to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Rehab of existing public buildings is also a high priority item and the West Cambridge Youth Center was also noted as a need.	Finance Committee
3. Establish a plan for acquisition of and ongoing maintenance of open space in the City of Cambridge. (The Com Energy site was specifically identified as a possible acquisition for the City, though less of a priority than the other capital items	Public Service Committee
3. Maintain and develop services that support and nurture families and children. Services include schools, childcare and other human services that serve all economic groups.	Human Services and Youth Committee
4. Establish appropriate and politically supported zoning/land use plan and regular review cycles. Explore and adopt strategies for appropriate growth and development in the City of Cambridge	Housing and Community Development Committee
5. Maintain traffic policies and programs that calm traffic, safeguard pedestrians, encourage bicycle and other non single occupancy vehicular use, and explore feasibility of alternative transportation like jitney and water transportation options.	Traffic and Transportation Committee

6.	Maintain public safety. (Of particular concern are domestic violence, youth violence and drugs.)	Public Safety Committee
7.	Manage the City to maintain high quality services and stability using fiscally sound principles and reserving a generous free cash pool.	Finance Committee
8.	Support training and other workforce development strategies that match citizens with the employment opportunities in Cambridge.	Economic Development Committee
9.	Support city employees to be culturally competent, appropriately skilled and successful	Government Operations Committee
10.	Support services for the elderly with particular emphasis on stable housing.	Elder Services Committee



City of Cambridge

Committee Report #3

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 5, 1999

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to look into acquiring supplemental functional furniture to enable the Sullivan Chamber to be more easily used for a variety of sizes and types of meetings.

In City Council April 5, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Davis stated that she feels uncomfortable talking to one provider with one idea of how to deal with the problem. There are many ways to increase audiovisual capacity.

Councillor Born asked whether Ms. Houghey and Mr. Goldman were familiar with other government spaces, for example the State House or U.S. Congress, that have been retrofitted with audiovisual equipment.

Councillor Sullivan thanked Mr. Goldman and Ms. Houghey for coming to the meeting. He noted that we already have certain hookups for computers and cable. Perhaps the best idea is to build on what is already there in a modest way.

Mr. Rossi said that the value of a meeting like this is to give some sense of the possibilities. Obviously, if the City decides to go forward, it will be required to follow the dictates of Chapter 40B regarding purchases by municipalities. Mr. Maloney said that it might make sense to have monitors on the individual councillors' desks with a monitor for the public.

John Gintell, West Street, said that as a member of the public, it is frustrating to watch on television Council meetings where there are presentations.

Councillor Sullivan stated that during the budget process, the material is also shown on the screen. It has been prepared ahead of time with the Cable Office so that the charts and graphs can be easily viewed on television.

Councillor Born stated that there are three different audiences, the Councillors, the public at the meeting and those watching the television.

Mr. Rossi suggested thinking about what we currently do and what could be small improvements. Sally Zimmerman said that when she and other city staff had a preliminary meeting with Ms. Houghey, the idea was to keep the technology in the Sullivan Chamber simple. Mr. Rossi stated that there would need to be a conversation with the City Manager about where to go from here and how this could fit in with current plans.

Ms. Houghey stated that there is cost effective technology that could simplify and improve the way that material is presently displayed at the Council meetings.

Councillor Russell thanked Ms. Houghey and Mr. Goldman for their informative presentation.

Councillor Russell then moved to the issue of the best way for departments to respond to public information requests for City Council expenses. **The Committee authorized the Chair to discuss with the Auditor procedures to ensure that all of these requests are referred to the Law Department or the City Council Office.**

Councillor Russell then moved to the issue of the City Council FY 2000 priorities and the City Manager's goals. She noted that the City Council's FY 2000 priorities came out of the October and November goal setting sessions with Roberta Miller. The City Council adopted the priorities and referred them to the Government Operations Committee to put them into a final, sentence format. Ms. Miller and the City Clerk put them into final format, and the re-formatted version is before the Committee.

Councillor Russell stated that the Committee needs to agree upon a process for reviewing the City Manager's goals. She suggested that the review process should relate the City Manager's goals to Council priorities and enable the Council to see how the Council priorities and the City Manager's goals are addressed in the budget.

Councillor Davis stated that she does not want to see a list of one hundred fifty goals distributed among the eleven City Council priorities. She would rather see a list of the top three or four implementation goals for each City Council priority.

Councillor Sullivan suggested that the next version of the City Council's contract with the City Manager eliminate the requirements that the City Manager submit a list of goals every January, and instead have something that fits in with the timetable of the City Council's decision on its goals. He noted that this was discussed at the very first goal setting session that the City Council had with Roberta Miller.

John Gintell, Winter Street, recommended that the City Council talk about its purposes for setting goals; one is to provide direction to the City Manager, another is performance measurement and management of his progress and that of the City Council.

Councillor Russell suggested that each of City Council's goals be referred to a particular committee for the purpose of monitoring or evaluating progress on the goals.

Councillor Born stated that it is important to have goals to remind Councillors of decisions that have been made. Time limits are helpful too.

Councillor Sullivan asked whether more time lines in goals are possible, because it would be helpful to have a framework, for example the Quincy Square project where citizens were consulted and agreed with the plan, but in five years when the project was going to be implemented, there were lots of new residents who did not like the plan at all, and the public process had to be repeated.

Councillor Born agreed. She stated that often the City Council puts off hard decisions, but often it is really easier to make the decision and move on.

Lisa Peterson stated that timelines are easier for things like capital goals than for human services goals.

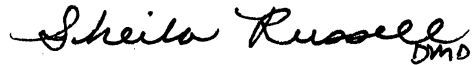
Councillor Davis moved that the City Council assign the City Council Priorities to Council committees and as recommended by the Government Operations Committee in the attached list, and that the committees review the implementation of these priorities twice a year, or more frequently in the discretion of the committee. The motion was adopted on a voice vote without objection.

Councillor Sullivan then moved that the City Manager be requested to look into acquiring supplemental functional furniture to enable the Sullivan Chamber to be more easily used for a variety of sizes and types of meetings. The motion passed on a voice vote without objection.

Councillor Russell thanked all those present for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Russell". To the right of the signature, the letters "DMD" are written in a smaller, blocky font.

Councillor Sheila T Russell, Chair

FY 2000 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

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City of Cambridge

In City Council April 5, 1999

The Government Operations Committee held a public meeting on March 24, 1999, beginning at 12:00 noon in the Sullivan Chamber for the purpose of discussing technological/ audiovisual improvements to the Sullivan Chamber, the final revision of the Council's FY 2000 priorities, a process for considering the City Manager's goals and any other business of the committee.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Sheila T. Russell, Chair of the Committee, Vice Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio, Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr. and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi; Assistant City Manager for Finance, James Maloney; Sally Zimmerman, Historical Commission; Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Manager; Sandra Albano, Assistant to the City Council; Mary Ellen Vera, City Manager's staff, Ann Lee Foster, Assistant to the Mayor.

Councillor Russell convened the hearing and explained the purpose. She then invited Jan Houghey and Michael Goldman from Crimson Tech to make a presentation regarding possible technological improvements in the capacity for audiovisual presentations in the Sullivan Chamber. She stated that Mayor Duehay had requested that Crimson Tech be invited to provide suggestions to the Government Operations Committee after the owner offered to make suggestions about improvements without charge.

Mr. Goldman asked where most presentations would come from: would they use material from a laptop or material that resides in a network. Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi noted that at this point the City does not do a lot of video displays in presentations, so the City needs suggestions about something basic to start with that wouldn't rule out expansion later on.

Ms. Houghey said that audiovisual presentations "paint a picture" for the view and described the screen, the "canvas," as basic to the presentation.

Councillor Born stated that most of the time these displays are needed during committee meetings. It might be preferable to have the Sullivan Chamber equipped with basic audiovisual tools and do more complete audiovisual renovations on another space for committee meetings. This would avoid the difficulties of trying to retrofit the Sullivan Chamber.

Committee Report #3

2535

A report from Councillor Sheila Russell, Chair of the Government Operations Committee, for a meeting held on March 24, 1999 for the purpose of discussing technological/audiovisual improvements to the Sullivan Chamber, the final revision of the Council's FY 2000 priorities, a process for considering the City Manager's goals and any other business of the committee.

In City Council April 5, 1999

Report Accepted -

PLACED ON FILE

ORDER ADOPTED