



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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VETERANS' SERVICES

Pasquale L. Reale

Director

April 19, 1973

The Honorable Barbara Ackermann, Mayor
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mayor Ackermann:

In regards to letters received from the Mass. League of Cities and Towns and the Mass. Taxpayers Foundation Inc., both organizations are very emphatic on the amount of money that the Governors reorganization plan regarding Veterans' Benefit will save the cities and towns of Massachusetts. In order to dispute these figures, I have examined the Cherry Sheets of 1967 and 69-71 to make a comparison of amounts that these indicate will be paid to Local Government in order to set the tax rate, which seems to be the big issue in any City or Town.

I have used the figures of the 1967-69-71 Cherry Sheets as comparison, as 1967 was the last year that Welfare was handled fully at the local level. They are as follows along with the Welfare appropriations for that year:

1967 Cherry Sheet	\$7,054,505.00
1969	4,600,887.90
1969 difference	2,453,617.10
1971	4,372,239.00
1971 difference	3,366,198.00
1967 Welfare appropriation	1,800,170.00
Cambridge portion	

As you can see, in both years, this is quite a difference, in 1969, we absorbed the full cost of Welfare as compared to 1967 and in subsequent years, such as 1971, even with a marked increase in other categories, i.e., Veterans Benefit outside school transportation, abatement to Veterans', Education of deaf and blind, cost of school projects and school lunch program and others, we still were under the 1967 Cherry Sheet by \$3,366,199.00.

So you can readily see that even though the money is not coming directly out of City Cooffers, it still makes its impact felt when it is time to figure out tax rate.

Another interesting note is that since 1970, the Welfare Budget has increased 34.1% and the Veterans' Benefit Budget has only increased 2.6% for the same period. The difference being that we of Veterans' Benefit have greater investigating power and local control.

We also file for and receive Federal Funds that go directly to Veterans or dependents and for fiscal 1972 this amount was \$344,128,799.00 as reported by the Veterans Administration at the J.F. K. Building, Boston. It has also been stated by the Regional Director, Mr. W. Connors, that this is because of the efforts of the Local Directors and Agents.

If only 20% of this money was lost because of a consolidation with Welfare, it would offset the full amount of the cost of our Programme throughout the State.

See attached documented sheets regarding percentage increase for both Veterans and Welfare.

Pasquale L. Reale
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Director of Veterans Services

		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
<u>COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS' SERVICES</u>		<u>FY 1970</u>		<u>FY 1971</u>		<u>FY 1972</u>	<u>\$ Incr. 2 Yrs</u> <u>% Incr. 2 Yrs</u>
63-6100 Administration	\$	740,567.00	\$	764,972.38	\$	757,755.32	
63-6300 Annuities-Disabled Veterans		199,567.13		200,000.00		214,000.00	
63-6400 Reimbursements-Veterans' Benefits		15,695,390.00		12,688,118.00		16,131,999.97	
63-6500 Aid to needy Dependents of persons in the service		115,000.00		168,000.00		98,000.00	\$
TOTALS	\$	16,750,524.00	\$	13,821,090.38	\$	17,201,755.29	\$ 451,230.73 2.6%
<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</u>	\$	677,165,306.57	\$	813,602,891.07	\$	907,529,299.97	\$230,363,993.40 34.1%

(These statistics were extracted from Public Documents 140 for Fiscal Years 1970, 1971, 1972
FD 140 is the Massachusetts Financial Report)

From: Senate Commission
on Vet's Affairs

Number of Live C&P Running
Awards by Regional Offices
as of end of December 1972

From: Reports & Statistics
Ser. Controller Offices
Washington, D.C.

Veterans Population as of
December 1972 by Regional
Office %

New York, New York	156453	1858000	8.42
Los Angeles, California	116371	1992000	5.84
Cleveland, Ohio	111917	1509000	7.42
Boston, Massachusetts -- includes Cambridge	99195	784000	12.65
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	89701	1108000	8.10
Chicago, Illinois	88399	1663000	5.32
Detroit, Michigan	88015	1182000	7.45
St. Petersburg, Florida	85532	1091000	7.84
Newark, New Jersey	81824	1086000	7.53
San Francisco, California	75277	1244000	6.05
Waco, Texas	72415	845000	8.57

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

VA INFORMATION SERVICE

J.F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston 02203

News

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

February 9, 1972

The Veterans Administration said today that recently compiled statistics show the agency spent \$344,128,799 in Massachusetts, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1971, an increase of more than \$39,463,520 over the previous year.

The VA said the expenditures included \$197,364,940 in compensation and pension benefits, \$40,266,092 in educational benefits and \$27,017,914 in insurance and indemnities.

The remainder went for construction costs and operating costs for the Boston, West Roxbury, Bedford, Brockton and Northampton VA Hospitals and Regional Office operations.

The VA said Middlesex County received the lion's share of the total expenditures with an estimated \$79,433,513.

Other counties receiving large portions of the total spent:

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Suffolk	\$76,828,759
Essex	31,371,484
Worcester	29,862,992
Norfolk	29,211,950
Plymouth	28,889,788
Hampden	21,396,284

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Comm. from Pasquale Reale regarding the
Governors reorganization plan regarding
Veteran's Benefits.

In City Council,

April 23, 1973

4/23/73

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