



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
38 Chauncy Street, Boston, Mass. 02111

WILLIAM F. WELD
GOVERNOR

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

FRANKLIN P. OLLIVIERRE
SECRETARY

December 16, 1991

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

John F. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Flynn:

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter and the enclosed material to each of the Members of the City Council, so that they will better understand just what we are doing and why--on the question of merger or consolidation of the 27 Massachusetts Home Care Corporations.

The study of whether there should be a merger or consolidation begins with a completely clean slate:- there is no targeted Home Care Corporation. Both the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Members of the Study Committee have to look at the Commonwealth's overall needs as well as the special needs and interests of Cambridge and Somerville. I am confident that the Committee will do a masterful job of seeing (and understanding) both the forest and the trees.

The Chair of the Committee is a man steeped in Cambridge civic affairs who knows first hand the contribution that Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services has made to the good and welfare of both cities. I am sure the Members of the Council share my opinion:- their alumnus is a fair, thoughtful, and fearless gentleman whose only commitment in this assignment--as it was throughout his long and distinguished career--is to find the best and right answers.

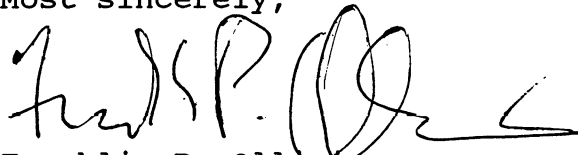
Most of the Members of the Council probably do not know the other Members of the Committee. But I can assure them that the Membership is cut from the same, superb Mahoney cloth.

John F. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk
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The Committee will be holding open hearings as the New Year begins. The Membership would certainly welcome the counsel and comments of any Member of the City Council who wishes to testify.

Please thank the Council you for giving me the change to put this matter into perspective.

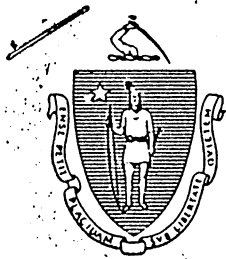
Most sincerely,



Franklin P. Ollivierre

FPO/KMG:MC
Enclosure

P.S. Since October, I have added two additional Members to the Committee--increasing both its geographic balance and its intellectual clout. They are: Mr. John Randall of Ludlow, a former Selectman and respected "Town Father", and Mr. George H. Tremblay of Lanesborough, who is the Finance Director for the Visiting Nurses of Northern Berkshire County.



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Contact: Arnold Koch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(617) 727-7750

October 16, 1991

STUDY OF HOME CARE CORPORATION CONSOLIDATION LAUNCHED

Franklin P. Ollivierre, Secretary of Elder Affairs, today announced that a 16 member Special/Select Committee would immediately begin an intensive investigation of the pro's and con's of consolidating the existing network of 27 Massachusetts Home Care Corporations which serve more than 30,000 frail Massachusetts elders from Pittsfield to Provincetown.

"For more than a decade, questions have been raised--not about the quality of service or caring provided by the Home Care Corporations--but about whether administrative costs could be cut and overall efficiency enhanced if consolidation occurred," Secretary Ollivierre said.

"I have asked these knowledgeable, thoughtful women and men to take an objective look at all the facts and factors so that we can prepare ourselves for even better service to our frail elders as the new century approaches."

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"My charge to the Committee is simple," Secretary Ollivierre continued. "Is the existing system the best we can devise? Would consolidation on a small or large scale enhance the quality and/or the quantity of the service we provide for these Massachusetts elders? Is 27 (the existing number of Home Care Corporations) the right number for the Massachusetts of tomorrow?"

"The Special/Select Committee will seek advice in and from the widest range of individuals and organizations in the elder community. It will solicit written and spoken testimony. It will touch all the bases. It has one priority and one only:- to find an answer that best serves the present and future needs of those who rely on the Home Care Corporations for independence and dignity.

"I have asked the Committee to report back to me by January 1, 1992. The Committee will be staffed at and through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs."

Dr. Thomas H.D. Mahoney of Cambridge, will chair the Special/Select Committee. He is a former Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs during the King Administration and a former member of the Legislature.

The Committee roster also includes five members of the General Court: Senator Bill Owens (D-Boston), Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs and his Co-Chair Representative Paul Kollios (D-Millbury); Senator Erving H. Wall, Jr. (R-Taunton) and Representative Carol C. Cleven (R-Chelmsford), the ranking Republican Members of the Committee; and Representative John F. Cruz (R-West Bridgewater) who also serves on the Committee.

Other members are:

Mercedes Barnet

Director of Training, Nurses
Aides; Eagle Pond Nursing Home,
Falmouth

James Callahan

Director, Heller School and
Bigel Institute, Brandeis
University (Former Secretary
of Elder Affairs)

Mary T. Dalpe, R.N.

Director of Human Services
City of Marlborough

Neici Degan

Chairwoman, Board of Directors
Mystic Valley Elder Services and
Chair, Malden Council on Aging

Sally Fogerty

President, Mass. Home Care
Association, Executive Director,
Elder Services of Cape Cod and
the Islands, Inc.

Lois Green

Executive Director, Elder Home
Care Services of Worcester Area

Myra Herrick

Chairwoman (Retired), EOE
Citizens Advisory Committee

Alan Meyers

Professor of Public Health;
Associate Dean of Liberal Arts
Boston University

Roger Nichols

President, Mass. Council of
Homemaker-Home Health Aides,
Board Member, Home and Health
Care Association

Edward Parigian

Retired Regional Director,
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services, Office of
Inspector General Audit Agency,
Former Board Member, Council on
Aging

Georgia Sharpe

Case Manager, Central Boston
Senior Services

CONSENT COMM. # 23 5-35

Comm. from Franklin P. Ollivierre,
Executive Office of elder Affairs,
transmitting information on the merge or
consolidation of the Home Care
Corporations.

In City Council,

January 13, 1992

Placed on file