



City of Cambridge

8.

IN CITY COUNCIL
February 28, 1983

VICE MAYOR RUSSELL

- WHEREAS:** The Integrated Foster Care Program, located at 1991 Massachusetts Avenue, in St. James Episcopal Church since October 4, 1981, serves the needs of developmentally disabled children by providing them with foster homes as an alternative to institutionalization; and
- WHEREAS:** The Integrated Foster Care Program created in 1973 for children with special needs and their families, at a time which families found their handicapped children too difficult to care for in their own homes and were looking for alternatives; and
- WHEREAS:** The Integrated Foster Care Program has now expanded to include Respite Care Services for families with special needs which is the relief from the total care of a child with special needs for a day, weekend, or longer; and
- WHEREAS:** The Integrated Foster Care Program continues to provide foster placement for children with special needs, their goals being to maintain the children's place within their families, to find the best possible foster home for each child referred, to create close cooperation between natural families and foster families, to return foster children to their natural families after successful placement whenever possible, to develop foster parents as community resources and advocates for children with special needs, and to establish a community network to insure the children's future life in the community; and
- WHEREAS:** As the funding agency for the Integrated Foster Care Program, the Massachusetts Department of Social Services is committed to placing as many children as possible in home environments and has placed children ages 3 to 22 who, for various reasons, have been voluntarily and temporarily separated from their natural parents, all of which have some level of mental retardation and many who suffer from emotional and/or physical handicaps; and
- WHEREAS:** The Integrated Foster Care Program social worker maintains contact with natural families and foster families in order to provide them with weekly home visits, training in parenting skills, for the care of children with special needs, monthly joint meetings for natural parents and foster parents, 24-hour emergency staff availability, consultation and assistance in developing Individualized Educational Plan with the local school system, assistance in recreational and social programs, and follow-up after termination or referral to other community agencies; and

WHEREAS:

With Integrated Foster Care's support, the natural parents and foster parents are given the opportunity to establish long-term, trusting relationships with each other and to share a mutual concern for the growth of their children; therefore be it

RESOLVED:

That the Cambridge City Council go on record extending its deep appreciation to Kaethe Peters, Director of the Integrated Foster Care Program, and her staff for their outstanding contributions to this agency, to families of children with special needs and to the Cambridge and Somerville community; and be it further

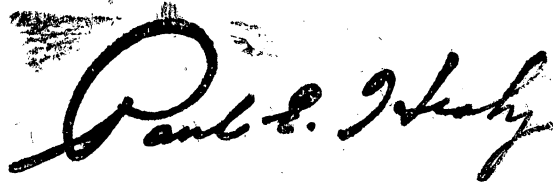
RESOLVED:

That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Kaethe Peters and her staff on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council February 28, 1983.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Order # 8

S-103

Vice-Mayor Russell re: resolutions on the
Integrated Foster Care Program.

In City Council,

February 28, 1983

2/28/83

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RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED

9