

in Neighborhood IV. A concerted staff outreach effort, will be required to involve some of these youth in the nearby Longfellow Teen Center. The use of the Fletcher School for alternative youth programming also is being explored.

Commonplace has served to attract a large number of Area IV youth for participation in formal and informal youth programs. The closing of the building will result in the loss of an unusually versatile space whose multiple uses permitted community based agencies to interact with youth recreation programs and thus increase their outreach capacity; to hold large events that serve youth and their families, and to hold several events simultaneously.

With its closing, will come a major need to provide carefully planned alternative programs coupled with active efforts to engage these young people in them. In addition, care must be taken to prevent the site from becoming a "hang out" spot for youth who once used the building. Viable programs in nearby facilities, consistent support for the youth involved, and continued communication with agencies that once used the facility are all critical elements to a relatively smooth transition.

A concerted effort will have to be made to provide outreach services to these Haitian young people in order to engage them in alternative programs.

Concilio has also offered regular youth programs. Recreation activities planned for this summer include boy's basketball and baseball, and a girl's volleyball team. Practices and tournaments are traditionally held at the Commonplace gyms and such events have attracted as many as 200 youth from around the city. Concilio's baseball team also has used Commonplace for practice exercises and team meetings. These athletic teams are extremely important to Concilio's youth outreach program and form the vehicle through which the underlying educational aspects of the program are implemented. Concilio has also used the gym space for a variety of special social events or for fundraising. Again specific outreach efforts will be necessary to help young people make a transition to other programs.

The Commonplace Teen Center has provided evening drop-in services to an average of 70 youth between 13 and 17 each evening throughout the year. Of the young people who use the Commonplace program, approximately seventy percent are white and twenty percent are black and Hispanic; most reside

In the past, resources have been available for the support of the facility from three sources. The city, the school department, and CETA. With the move of CAPS into the Webster facility and the elimination of CETA from the federal budget, the entire operating cost of the Commonplace building would fall to the city. Projected total costs for FY82 would be approximately \$92,000. Therefore efforts are underway to provide alternatives for those agencies and individuals who have used Commonplace.

Concilio and CHAMA are scheduled to relocate their offices to 105 Windsor Street. The relocation will enable them to continue their services, though it will limit their ability to offer recreational programs or social events in the neighborhood.

For example, CHAMA has traditionally held an annual graduation dance at Commonplace, inviting the neighborhood to come and celebrate with the recent high school graduates of their community. CHAMA has, moreover, by virtue of its location been able to maintain regular contact with the Haitian youth who use the Commonplace Teen Center. Approximately 20% of those youth involved with the Teen Center are Haitian, and they have felt particular ownership in the Commonplace youth programming because of CHAMA's presence there.



City of Cambridge

Department of Human Service Programs

51 Inman Street Cambridge Massachusetts 02139 498-9076

To James L. Sullivan,
City Manager

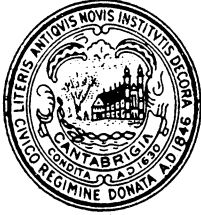
Date: June 1, 1981

From Jill Herold
Asst. City Manager

Ref:

Subject Council Order No. 6 5/4/81 re:
Consequences of closing Commonplace

As a community resource, Commonplace is presently providing office space for two agencies, Concilio Hispano and the Cambridge Haitian American Association, as well as regular program space for a Teen Center and the Resource Exchange. Both CHAMA and Concilio provide a variety of services for two significant minority populations located in the neighborhood; their programs range in scope from counseling services to recreational activities. The Teen Center is open to all neighborhood youth and offers ongoing evening recreation programs. The Resource Exchange is a city-wide program which services the day care community in Cambridge. In addition to serving those agencies housed in the building, Commonplace offers ample recreational/educational space for broad community use as well. The availability of versatile space (two gyms and a game room) for programming and open recreation has been valuable resource to the community.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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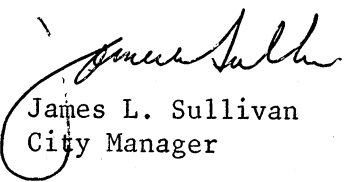
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

June 8, 1981

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 7 relative to the consequences of the projected closing of Commonplace, enclosed please find copy of a report from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Awaiting Report Item No. 7 re: to the consequences of the projected closing of Commonplace.

In City Council,

June 8, 1981

1/8/1981

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