



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BETH RUBENSTEIN

*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

MALAINA BOWKER

*Deputy Director for
Community Development*

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: ^{BR} Beth Rubenstein, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Date: May 29, 2000

Re: Council Order #04 dated May 7, 2001. Report on what opportunities exist in the settlement of the Boulet, et al vs. Cellucci, et al United States District Court, Massachusetts, Civil Action No. 99-CU 10617-DPW (the "Boulet Case") case for construction of housing for the disabled.

In response to the above referenced order about the Boulet Case, this report outlines the court ruling and how the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) will be responding to the ruling. It also outlines other funding sources available for developing housing for people with disabilities.

Overview of the Boulet Case

In March 1999, a lawsuit was filed in the Federal District Court in Boston on behalf of people on the Department of Mental Retardation's waiting list for day services and/or residential placement.

Settlement was reached in favor of DMR's clients on the waiting list in December 2000. Under the terms of the settlement agreement, the Governor is required to seek an additional appropriation of \$85 million from the Massachusetts Legislature for DMR for clients on the waiting list as of July 14, 2000. The funds must be used to provide a range of service to DMR clients, including day services such as skills training or job coaching, interim care while a client is waiting for residential placement and residential placements. All clients on the waiting list must be served by June 2006. As part of the fiscal year 2002 budget, the Governor has requested that \$22 million be appropriated to DMR in response to the Boulet case; the request is under review by the legislature.

Status of DMR Planning Process and Availability of Funds for Construction of Housing for the Disabled

DMR, in collaboration with DMR service agencies, is currently reviewing its clients' needs on the waiting list. Over the next several months, DMR will be developing a plan for how to best serve its clients needs, including day services and residential placements. DMR has indicated that the majority of the funds will be earmarked for day services but that some funds may be available to assist with residential placements (e.g., rent and utilities).

DMR will continue to work with local housing authorities, including the Cambridge Housing Authority, and DMR service providers to identify new housing opportunities.

As DMR assesses its clients' needs for residential placements, DMR may make some of the funds available through request for proposals (RFP) to develop new units. In that event, DMR service providers, as well as Cambridge housing developers, would be eligible to respond to a request for development proposals. Because the funds are earmarked for individuals on the waiting list, DMR has indicated that there would not be large allocations of funds available for new development.

Other State Funding for Developing Housing for People with Disabilities

There are several federal and state programs designed specifically to provide both capital funding to develop community-based housing for people with disabilities and operating funds. These programs include the Massachusetts Facilities Consolidation Fund, Massachusetts Special Needs Housing programs, and federal Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities.

Currently, the Cambridge Housing Authority is acquiring 14 scattered-site units for people with disabilities with support from the Facilities Consolidation Fund. The City also supported this acquisition project with \$560,000 in HOME funds. The CHA and other local housing developers will continue to seek opportunities to develop housing for people with disabilities throughout the City.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

June 18, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-187, regarding a report on what opportunities exist in the settlement of the Boulet vs. Cellucci case for construction of housing for the disabled, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Healy" clearly visible.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



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Consent Agenda #11

Awaiting Report Item Number 01-187, regarding a report on what opportunities exist in the settlement of the Boulet vs. Cellucci case for construction of housing for the disabled.

In City Council June 18, 2001

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