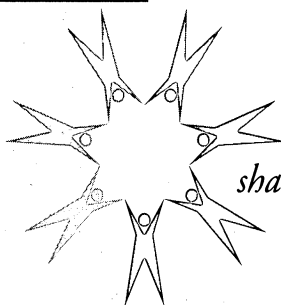


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

RECEIVED
96 APR 18 AM 9:19
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Robert W. Healy

From: Jill Herold

Date: April 17, 1996

RE: Council Order # 037, dated 2/12/96, requesting information on plans for transportation to the Citywide Senior Center

Childcare

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Community and Youth

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation

The Department of Human Services/Council on Aging is currently in the midst of development of the overall plan for transportation services for Cambridge Seniors. The plan incorporates a variety of components through which we hope to be able to meet much of the demand for transportation to the Senior Center.

1. ACCESSING FEDERAL MEALS SITE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING THROUGH LOCAL ELDER SERVICES AGENCY

The Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is the agency which receives and coordinates the Title III-C/ Federal Nutrition Site funding. This funding is targeted to transport individuals to their nearest meal site for meals and socialization. The transportation can be for one day or up to five days per week. The Council on Aging and SCES have been working jointly on identifying elders to be picked up and transported from their homes to the Senior Center as part of this funding source.

Some seniors have already begun to receive transportation to the Center through SCES. SCES is beginning to transport a large group from the Manning Apartments 5 days a week and a group from the LBJ apartments several days per week. Transportation for groups of seniors from other buildings will begin later in the Spring. Once transported to the Senior Center for a meal (breakfast and/or lunch) these individuals may choose to stay for scheduled classes and activities, food pantry, or simply for drop-in time.

The federal funding that SCES receives for meal site transportation is not unlimited. To ensure the availability of meal site transportation for additional Cambridge seniors, the City intends to provide additional grant funding to SCES for FY97. The FY97 proposed budget includes an increase in funds for transportation for Cambridge seniors and some of those funds will be used for this grant.



2. OUTREACH TO SENIOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SCHOOL SENIOR GROUPS

The Council on Aging is in the midst of a major outreach to all senior housing buildings and established Community School senior groups. The visits are being coordinated through the Cambridge Housing Authority Service Coordinators for seniors, or through the Community Schools Coordinators. The outreach includes an on-site visit at the location (at a regularly scheduled coffee hour or other senior event) where we highlight the classes, meals and other events happening at the Senior Center and ask for individuals to sign up for transportation. (A copy of a sample flyer that was used for the Kennedy School senior group is attached.)

After the site visit by Council on Aging staff, we have set up special days for each group to come to the Center for lunch and a tour to encourage seniors to acquaint themselves with the Senior Center. The special day allows the seniors who have not yet been to the Senior Center to experience it and get a better sense of how often they may want to come, and on what particular days. These follow up special tour days are now occurring, and transportation scheduling for regular return visits by individuals or groups will be done after a significant number of the group visits have been completed.

SCES will take the responsibility for coordinating all formal routing. Depending upon the numbers of seniors who wish to come on any given day, SCES will schedule van pickup or taxis. In addition, for some groups, as explained below, the City, and not SCES will be directly providing the transportation.

3. EXPANDING CITY PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION

The Friends of the Council on Aging, Inc. has committed to purchasing a van for the Senior Center. With the addition of this new van, we are planning to expand the weekly hours of a DHSP driver so that some parts of the overall transportation schedule can be done by the Council on Aging with its own vehicle and driver. Right now, transportation is provided by the Council on Aging for Mall trips and for the Haitian Elder Program. We anticipate that the new van would be used, for example, for transporting seniors from the Burns Apartments or the Millers River Apartments which are not eligible for SCES transportation because they each host their own meal sites. To ensure that seniors from those buildings can make use of the citywide Senior Center, the City would need to provide that transportation.

4. TAXI COUPON DISCOUNTS

The Council On Aging continues to increase publicity about its Taxi Coupon benefit. There has been a noticeable increase in

the requests we have filled in the recent months for these coupons, which provide a reduction in cab fare of \$1.25 for any one way cab trip of \$5.00 or less, or a reduction of \$2.50 per one-way trip of \$5.25 or more.

5. LIFELINE TRANSPORTATION GRANT

The Friends of the Council on Aging, Inc. and the Council on Aging have received a grant from the Lifeline Corporation to assist seniors in Cambridge with their transportation needs. As of February, 1996, we started the process to identify frailer seniors who need very specialized transportation. The grant from Lifeline allows us to identify up to 100 individuals for assessment of their transportation needs, providing them each with round-trip transportation to the Senior Center. While they are at the Senior Center, staff will be working with them on setting up a transportation system for their many needs, (i.e. the Ride, medical transportation, transportation to the Senior Center.) The grant also allows us to provide ongoing transportation to the Senior Center for up to 10 frail seniors for six months. At the end of the six months, we will work with the seniors to provide them with alternative transportation to the Senior Center.

6. ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS

As you know, the City currently funds other transportation services for seniors, both through tax dollars and through Community Development Block Grant funds. In addition to the Mall trips and transportation for the Elder Haitian Program, the City contracts with SCM Transportation for medical transportation to Cambridge and Boston and for nutritional shopping trips from designated buildings in Cambridge to area supermarkets.

Transportation to the New Senior Center
806 Massachusetts Ave.

Thursday, April 4th

Eileen Ginnetty and Marge McDonald
from the
Cambridge Council on Aging
will explain
transportation options
and
fill out brief applications
to sign up
interested individuals
for transportation
to the new Senior Center

**Any Cambridge Senior
age 60 or over
is eligible**

Transportation will be provided
by vans or taxis
If you are interested in
meals, classes, beano, or other activities
at the center
and need help getting there
You can fill out an application
with Marge or Eileen

We'd like to have Kennedy School
as one of our pick up sites

Please see attached for a schedule for the Senior Center



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

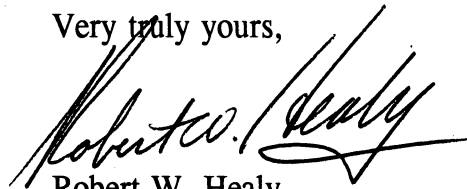
TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

April 22, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 13, regarding plans for transportation to the Citywide Senior Center, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #19

S-207

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Thirteen, regarding plans
for transportation to the Citywide
Senior Center.

In City Council April 22, 1996

Placed on file.