

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

February 3, 1977

Dr. Donald S. Frederickson
Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. Fredrickson:

Within the past year, the City of Cambridge has devoted a substantial amount of time, energy, and money to examining the potential impact of recombinant DNA research conducted at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Cambridge. The Cambridge Experimentation Review Board, a group of citizens appointed by me to review the question of recombinant DNA research in the city, completed its report in December 1976. The CERB recommended that research at the two institutions be allowed to continue, subject to the guidelines promulgated by NIH, but that the city itself establish a local biohazards committee. The proposed Cambridge Biohazards Committee (CBC) would maintain a relationship with the institutional biohazards committees, review all proposals for recombinant DNA research to be conducted in the City for compliance with NIH guidelines, develop an appeal procedure for members of institutions where the research is carried on to report to the CBC violations either in technique or established policy, review reports and recommendations from local institutional biohazards committees, carry out site visits to institutional facilities, and modify these recommendations to reflect future developments in federal guidelines. The Cambridge City Council has under consideration an ordinance which would implement the recommendations of the CERB report.

Specifically, I am writing to request that the National Institutes of Health consider the funding of a local biohazards committee in Cambridge as a national prototype of how communities can deal with the question of local impact of recombinant DNA research. This request is made in light of the fact that the city of Cambridge finds itself in the unusual position of having two such large institutions conducting this research much of which is supported by federal grants and of the consideration that the controversy within the scientific community itself is likely to generate concern in many localities where recombinant DNA research is carried out.

The funding requested (see outline in attachment) would provide support for a staff assistant and support services for the Cambridge Biohazards Committee for a start-up period consisting of the last 4 months of FY 1977 and for the continuation of staff support in FY 1978 commencing July 1, 1977. The staff assistant would be involved in assisting the CBC in establishing procedures, preparing reporting forms, maintaining all files and other information sources, and acting as an information clearinghouse for the CBC and the public.

I trust that you will give this proposal your highest consideration since it contributes to the implementation of the NIH guidelines and can serve as a national example for other concerned communities. I further trust that you will forward this proposal to any other appropriate persons or agencies within the National Institutes of Health.

Sincerely yours,

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/pe

D. What are budgetary implications of establishing a CBC?

Operating expenses (yearly) - depending on how often committee meets.

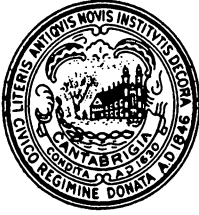
Frequency of CBC meeting		
EXTREMELY		
Frequent	Infrequently	
(i. g. 1/mo)	(e. g. 1/3-6 mos.)	
Full time	Half time*	
1 person - administrative assistant maintain all records and reports, prepare materials for CBC meet- ings, serve as information clear- inghouse between CBC, public and institutions, keep abreast of all guidelines, national meetings, events, etc.	\$15,000	\$7,500
1 Secretary	5,000 (1/2time)	2,500 (1/4time)
Reproduction/supplies	1,000	500
Independent person(s) paid on a retainer basis to act as technical adviser (one .5 hr./meeting @ no more than \$50/hr.)	3,000	1,000
TOTAL	\$24,000	\$11,500

*person would either have to be part-time or have other duties to be paid full time.

E. Short-term budgetary implications of establishing a CBC during FY76/77?

1 person to work with committee (CBC) to: establish reporting procedures, prepare reporting forms gather and prepare materials for CBC review maintain a file of information on guidelines, articles, other Committee hearing minutes, etc.	1/3 yr. @ \$15.00/yr. = \$5,000 (serve on contract?)
Secretarial assistance up to 1/4 time	700
Graphics for forms	500
Printing	200
	<u>6,400</u>

Carried Forward	6,400
Other reproduction	200
Independent person(s) paid on a retainer basis to act as technical adviser (one 5 hr./mo. @ no more than \$50/hr. x 4 mos.)	<u>1,000</u>
Total	\$7,600



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

February 7, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Council Order No. 8 of January 17, 1977,
regarding a funding application from the National Institute of
Health, enclosed is a letter I am submitting to the Director of
N.I.H. with a proposed tentative budget.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #11

S-76

Funding application from the National Institute of Health for a local biohazards committee.

In City Council,

Feb. 7, 1977

2/7/77

Placed on File