

Concerned Parents of X-X
X-ploration X-plosion Pre-Teen Center
946 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

November 26, 1973

Mr. John H. Corcoran
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

The last few years represent a time of unrest for the youth in the Cambridge Model City Neighborhood. In some instances the blame can be placed with the youngsters themselves, while in other instances it is due to factors and situations beyond their control.

Regardless of where we place the blame the end result is the same --a depressing, frustrating and tense environment. It is an environment which makes the difficult task of growing up even more difficult. Trying to cope with the complex problems of life today, our children need all the support we can give them.

We must place our faith in our youngsters and stress their strengths instead of their weaknesses. We must help them to solve their conflicts and problems, not create new ones for them. We must project a feeling that we believe in our children and are working for them. It is a time to place the highest priority on programs for our youth.

We feel that our pre-teen youngsters are at an age where they can learn positive ways of expressing themselves. It is with these children that we place our greatest hope.

We believe that the X-ploration X-plosion Pre-Teen Center located at 940 Cambridge Street and the Area 4 Pre-Teen Center located at the Newtowne Court Gym exemplify this hope. They are a visible way of telling our children "we do care". It has been demonstrated that these programs are necessary and that they can work.

The X-ploration X-plosion Pre-Teen Center has consistently offered quality services to the neighborhood since its beginning over 3 years ago. The Area 4 Pre-Teen program has offered the same kind of services to the neighborhood for almost 2 years. Our children

identify strongly with the Centers and are as concerned about their future as we are.

It seems that many youth programs are tried and that few succeed. We feel that the record of Pre-Teen Services illustrates that it can and has succeeded. The program represents hope to us and to our children. They believe in it, and it has become part of their lives.

At a recent meeting of concerned neighborhood parents, we were shocked to learn that pre-teen services will cease to exist as of the end of December. We can not understand why a program which has done so much for our children should not continue. It is like "undoing" everything that has been done.

We see this as a direct communication to our children that "we don't care". It invites the kind of problems we have all worked to help solve. How can we tell our children we support them, and then take away a program which is absolutely necessary for them?

We strongly support the continuation of the Pre-Teen Services Program because it meets a definite need and has been demonstrated to be successful. We respectfully request a full hearing of the City Council to discuss the intensity of our need.

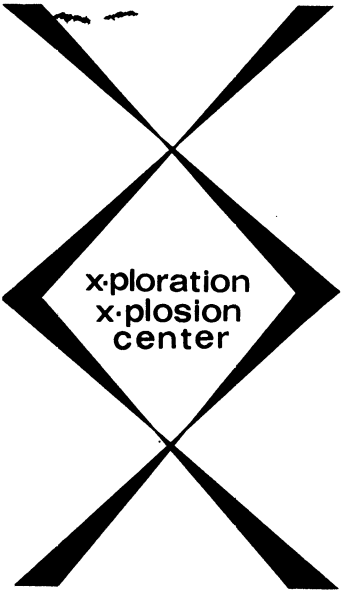
Sincerely,

Maryanne Witham

Maryanne Witham
Chairwoman XX

Norma McMinem
Norma McMinem
Chairwoman Area 4

cc: Ms. Barbara Ackermann
Mr. Daniel Clinton
Mr. Paul Cowles
Ms. Sandra Graham
Mr. Thomas Danehy
Mr. Frank Duehay
Mr. Thomas O'Neil
Mr. Leonard Russell
Mr. Walter Sullivan
Mr. John Toomey
Mr. Al Vellucci
Mr. David Wylie
MR. R. Moncrief
MR. H. Owens
MR. J. Corcoran



exploration
explosion
center

940 Cambridge st.
Cambridge, Mass.

November 30, 1973

Mr. Paul Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

On behalf of the Concerned Parents of Areas III and IV, we would like to request a hearing on December 10, 1973 on the matter of Pre-Teen services in our neighborhood in order that this same matter may appear on the agenda of the City Council meeting of December 17, 1973.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Witham
Mary Ann Witham
Chairwoman, Area III
Parents Council

Norma McMenimen
Norma McMenimen
Chairwoman, Area IV
Parents Council

5. 471
Comm. received from the Concerned Parents
of Area III & IV requesting a hearing on
Dec 10, 1973 relative to the Pre-Teen
services in our neighborhood

In City Council,

Dec. 3, 1973

12/3/1973

Hearing set for

8:30 PM on Dec. 10, 1973