

YWCA YWCA YWCA YWCA YWCA

5 April 1974

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Councillors:

We at the Cambridge YWCA feel strongly that there is a need for child care services in Cambridge. This need has been emphatically demonstrated by the Cambridge Child Care Referendum of November, 1971, that successfully passed in every ward in the City, by census data providing counts on the number of pre-school or elementary age children living in Cambridge, and by the response to existing child care programs. The existing child care programs however have been established with rather strict and constrained boundaries due to the lack of facilities, funding or ability to extend their programs or provide flexibility in the type of care they could provide. To begin to answer both the need for increased child care centers and the need for a flexible, broad based center, the YWCA opened a daycare center on February 20, 1974, which handles twenty children and which offers the unique service of making child care available on a drop-in basis. We have found the drop-in center to be in great demand.

The present budget restrictions of the child care center make it impossible for the YWCA child care center to continue. Because of our interest in bringing child care services to more residents of Cambridge and in further responding to the specific types of child care needs for the residents of Cambridge, we would like to suggest the City Council funding or partially funding our initial effort, to create a community pilot child care center which could be a model and a pre-cursor for a City-wide network of child care centers. We will provide the pilot child care project and submit a report to the City of Cambridge detailing information on types of child care and child care related needs, implementation of child care centers, funding and recommendations concerning standards the City of Cambridge would uphold in the establishment, guidance and operation of child care centers. We would therefore like to request an appropriation of \$15,000 from the City of Cambridge.

The YWCA has active access and is accessible to the Cambridge community through its volunteer network, its community programs, its central location, and its well-established credibility with professionals and community alike in its past response to the community's needs in areas of education, social services and recreation. The most recent example of this and one which relies on private support is the Y's Outreach Program at Walden Square, established in November, 1973.

The YWCA has in recent years become increasingly concerned and actively involved in dealing with broader social issues. The National YWCA's #1 Imperative is the Elimination of Racism. This was passed in 1970 and was re-affirmed

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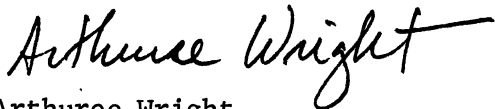
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in 1973. In line with this, each YWCA must do an internal audit of all programs and decision making processes for institutional racism. An example of action from this is a review by the YWCA of all its business and banking services to support only those with an affirmative action program. The second step is to audit the community and focus on an issue where we may make actual systematic change. The empowerment of women and Third World people are priorities in our program for action. Child care is projected as the major and essential area for us to act in. A consolidation of efforts is underway to further the success of the child care center through the coalition of YWCA standing committees.

We would appreciate time before the City Council for the YWCA representatives to present the proposed YWCA pilot child care project.

Sincerely,



Arthuree Wright
President
YWCA Board of Directors

The YWCA Pilot Child Care Would Be Active in and Provide Data in the Following Areas:

Increased Advertising for broader cross-section of participants

Expansion of Drop-In Service

Tuition Subsidies

Defining Community Control

Providing Implementation Guidelines based on a Child Care Center of 20-30

Suggest standards for the City of Cambridge to be upheld in the establishment, guidance and operation of child care centers.

Comm. from Arthuree Wright, President, YWCA
Board of Directors re: to child care services
in Cambridge.

In City Council,

April 8, 1974

4/8/74

Referred to the
City Manager.

copy sent to City
mgr. 4/11/74 dL