

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 876-6800

Office of the City Manager
Community Development Section

Justin Gray
Assistant to City Manager
for Community Development

MEMORANDUM

To: James L. Sullivan, City Manager
From: James B. Peters, Community Development Section
Date: March 16, 1970
Subject: YOUTH RESOURCES BUREAU

Enclosed, for transmission to the City Council, are copies of the Youth Resources Bureau grant application. An earlier draft was distributed to members of the previous Council, but new Councillors may be unacquainted with the proposal.

The proposal would establish an agency to deal with the growing problem of delinquency in Cambridge. The Bureau's primary purpose would be to work with youth referred by the Police Department and the Third District Court. The Bureau will also address itself to delinquency prevention by placing youth workers in the neighborhoods.

Our grant application has been approved by the Governor's Committee on Law Enforcement. Cambridge can receive the initial Federal grant (\$23,970) as soon as an Advisory Board has been formed and the director hired. Although the initial funding is for a six-month period, continued funding will be automatic and the Governor's Committee has anticipated an increase level of funding in its 1970 plans. We expect to use our State grant-in-aid from the Youth Service Board to pay half of the 40% local share of project costs.

The concept of the Youth Resources Bureau was originally advanced in 1967 by the President's Crime Commission. Since then, the Governor's Committee on Law Enforcement has urged Massachusetts communities to set up agencies of the type recommended by the Commission. The Committee has allocated part of its Federal crime control and juvenile delinquency funds for this purpose.

The President's Commission found that the juvenile court system has not achieved the results it was intended to achieve - the rehabilitation of young offenders. They found that the simple fact of court action can brand a child as a delinquent in his own mind and in the minds of others and make rehabilitation even more difficult. In addition, probation officers are overloaded with cases, and not closely enough related to the service resources of the community. Therefore, they are unable to make full use of all the services which might help a child in trouble.

Since the police have recognized that referral to court is a serious step which might do the child more harm than good, they have tended to

release all but the most serious offenders. In some cases outright release is the proper action, but in many other cases the police have realized that the child would probably get in trouble again unless he received some kind of attention. While there are dozens of agencies in a city like Cambridge which could provide a variety of services to juveniles - psychological counseling, employment counseling, recreational opportunities, family counseling, tutoring, etc. - the police have neither the training or the time to make sure that each youngster gets the services he needs.

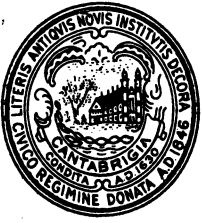
One of the functions of the Youth Resources Bureau would be to provide this type of assistance to the police and give them an alternative to court referral or outright release. Additional referrals to the Bureau might come from the court itself, parents, the schools, etc. Each juvenile referred to the Bureau would be assigned to a single counselor who would draw on all the resources of the Cambridge area to give him the help he needs.

A second function of the proposed Cambridge Youth Resources Bureau would be delinquency prevention. The Bureau would provide field workers to work in the neighborhoods with potentially delinquent youth groups. The City had neighborhood youth work programs in the summers of 1967 and 1968. The Bureau's field workers would have similar assignments with two exceptions: the program would run 12 months a year and there would be slightly less emphasis on recreation and more emphasis on getting teenagers to employment assistance, tutoring, or any other services they might need.

A third function of the Bureau would be to work with other agencies to improve all the services and programs for youth in this City.

During the first stage of the project, the budget allows for a staff consisting of a Director, five youth workers, and a secretary. Tentative plans call for the Bureau to add a field work supervisor and three more youth workers during the following year.

Many people have contributed to the development of this proposal. The first draft was prepared by a committee which included representatives of the Police Department, the Third District Court, social service agencies, CEOC, Harvard Law School, the Community Development Office, State Youth Services Board and the Cambridge Corporation. The draft proposal was then distributed to City Councillors and many other residents and professionals in Cambridge, including PTA leaders, Planning Team presidents, police officers, and others. The final draft was based on their comments.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

John H. Corcoran
Assistant City Manager

March 16, 1970

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith communication from James Peters
of the Community Development Office with information
pertaining to the Youth Resources Bureau.

Very truly yours,

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/eb

COMMUNICATION

from the City Manager trans-

mitting one from ~~James Peters~~ of the
Community Development Office with informa-
tion pertaining to the Youth Resources
Bureau

March 16, 1970.