



City of Cambridge

16.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 12, 1993

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR MYERS
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WALSH
VICE MAYOR CYR
MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: It has recently been announced that Greater Boston's two Portuguese-Language human service agencies, Cambridge Organization of Portuguese Americans (COPA) and Somerville Portuguese Language League (SPAL) will merge on July 1, 1993; and

WHEREAS: This merger, a subject of discussion for more than two years, will improve service provision and unite the many different groups served by COPA and SPAL for more than twenty years in the greater Boston area; and

WHEREAS: On July 1, 1993, COPA and SPAL will cease to exist and a new agency called the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) will be born; and

WHEREAS: This merger will result in a strong organization fully committed to serving the needs of Portuguese Speakers and others in need of Greater Boston; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers on their founding and further hope for them success in their future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to John Dreyer, President, Board of Directors, on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 12, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

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City Clerk

April 12, 1993

Councillor Toomey

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to John Dreyer, President, Board of
Directors on behalf of the
entire City Council.

COPA/SPAL=MAPS

Serving the Greater Boston Portuguese Speaking Community
1046 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02139 (617)492-5800
92 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143 (617) 628-6065

Toomey

March 15, 1993

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is a great pleasure to inform you that Greater Boston's two Portuguese-language human service agencies will become one on July 1.

After more than two years of planning, members of the Somerville Portuguese Language League (SPAL) and the Cambridge Organization of Portuguese Americans (COPA) approved a merger plan at a historic joint meeting March 3. The plan will improve service provision and unite the many different groups served by SPAL and COPA for more than 20 years in greater Boston including continental Portuguese, Azoreans, Cape Verdeans, Brazilians and people from the other Portuguese-speaking countries of the world.

It is personally gratifying for us to see the merger of COPA and SPAL finally occur. Individuals in the various communities put aside their personal feelings and loyalties and worked together for the benefit of all Portuguese speakers in Greater Boston. Thanks to these efforts, COPA and SPAL will cease to exist July 1 and a new agency called the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) will be born. The name reflects the feeling of unity within diversity that we want to promote within the Portuguese-speaking community.

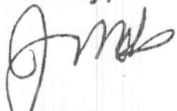
Our next important task will be to launch a major membership campaign to broaden our constituency, especially outside of our traditional Cambridge-Somerville communities, to reflect the diversity of the groups we wish to serve -- young and old, the healthy and the ill, people of all colors and from all walks of life. We also need and welcome a strong volunteer force to help our 29 staff members continue providing a wide range of health and human services in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner to the many communities we serve.

All programs at COPA and SPAL offices in Cambridge and Somerville will continue to run normally after the merger. We provide services in the areas of Family Support and Immigration Assistance, senior programs, AIDS and Substance Abuse Services and educational programs.

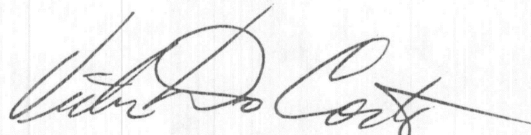
Merging COPA and SPAL will result in a strong organization fully committed to serving the needs of Portuguese speakers and others in need in Greater Boston. We look forward to making MAPS as respected a service provider as COPA and SPAL have been for over 20 years.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our supporters in the greater Boston community -- including members, donors and funders, and the many other service providers with which we do our work -- for helping the merger come to fruition. Without all of you, we would cease to exist, and many of our neediest residents would have nowhere to turn for all kinds of assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Dreyer
President, Board of Directors



Victor Do Couto
Executive Director



City of Cambridge

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CONSENT ORDER #16

Councillor Toomey re: Merger of two
Portuguese-Language human service
agencies, COPA and SPAL.

In City Council,

April 12, 1993

Order adopted