



City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs
51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, 498-9076

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

FROM: Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager for Human Services

RE: Response to Calendar Item No. 9 of June 15, 1987

DATE: June 25, 1987

Over the past several years the City of Cambridge has witnessed an increase in the use of violence among youth as a means of resolving conflict. This phenomenon is not restricted to our municipality. Within the commonwealth of Massachusetts the Department of Public Health has recently undertaken a major initiative identifying youth violence as a major public health concern and developing efforts to generate local initiatives. In response to this growing issue the Department of Human Services will begin a series of community discussion aimed at increasing public awareness of the specific problems. We intend to identify current resources and develop linkages between public and private youth serving agencies and neighborhood residents to collectively address the impact of this violence on our community.

In addition to these community discussions a series of workshops on Non-Violent Conflict Resolution will be developed and offered to Cambridge residents through the Youth service network in the City including private as well as public and community agencies and resources.

Currently, there is a broad range of programs and services which will be made available this summer to area youth which may have an impact on the number of youth "hanging out" in local parks and other areas. Specific Teen Center activities will include field trips, sports, events, and educational, drug, alcohol, sexuality workshops. Youth Staff from three neighborhoods are collaborating in offering the "Teen Time Project" which provides day and evening activities, for youth ages ten to nineteen. Activities are low-cost and include trips to amusement parks, beaches, rollerskating, hiking, and canoeing.

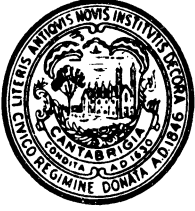
In teen centers connected to parks, fields (e.g. Hoyt and Rindge) some program activities are offered outdoors (weather permitting).

At the Sennott and Glacken Fields, evening activities are offered 3 - 4 times per week resulting in increased visibility of youth program staff with support from Recreation Division staff. This visibility will be extended to various parks in the City.

While some of these youth and their families may currently be receiving supportive services many more could benefit from social and psychological services. The Administrator of Adolescent and Family Services at the Department of Human Service Programs will be available to work with, refer and follow-up youth identified by police and outreach efforts to the appropriate social service agencies.

For youth ages 16 - 19 referrals can be made to the Transitional Teen Resource Center. The TTRC is a new collaborative project between D.H.S.P. and private agencies to provide job training, placement, and independent living skills development to older adolescents in the community.

JH/ma



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

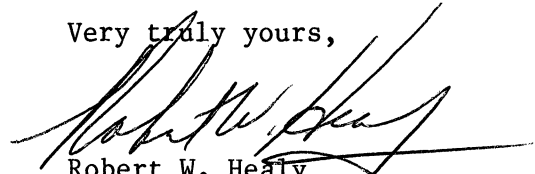
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 29, 1987

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Calendar Item No. 9 of June 15, 1987, I transmit herewith self-explanatory communication from the Department of Human Services relative to violence among youth.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/b

Agenda Item No. 9

S-436

Re: violence among youths.

In City Council,

June 29, 1987

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