



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

October 16, 1985

RICHARD C. ROSSI
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

TO: All Department Heads

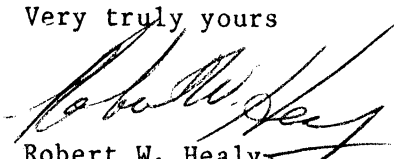
SUBJECT: Sign Language Services

A donation to the Commission on Handicapped Persons has made it possible to offer to City employees, free of charge, a course in American Sign Language (ASL). The course will be taught by Linda Hellyer, a highly qualified sign language interpreter, and will be offered from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Fridays, beginning in mid-October. Interested employees should be granted release time in order to participate in this class.

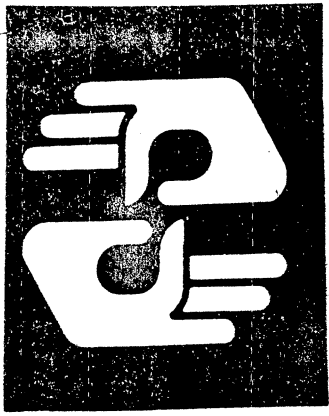
Linda will also be available to provide sign language interpretation services for department services and activities, as needed. Beginning in October, publicity for all events sponsored by every department should include a statement that a sign language interpreter will be provided if requested a week prior to the event. A copy of all publicity in which this statement appears should be sent to Gail Enman at the Commission on Handicapped Persons, 57 Inman Street. Gail will coordinate all requests for interpreters. She needs to receive publicity from City departments in order to do so, and in order to monitor Cambridge's compliance with access regulations that pertain to deaf persons.

Please post the enclosed notice about the sign language course, and publicize the availability of a sign language interpreter as part of all routine publicity for all activities and services, and send a copy to Gail Enman for coordination and monitoring purposes.

Very truly yours


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/b

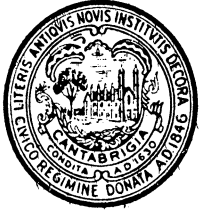


AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN AMERICAN SIGN

LANGUAGE WILL BE
OFFERED FREE OF
CHARGE TO CITY

EMPLOYEES ON FRIDAYS
FROM 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED,
CALL GAIL ENMAN AT
THE COMMISSION ON
HANDICAPPED PERSONS,
492-0235



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMISSION ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS
McCusker Center
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

RECEIVED BY
CITY CLERK
1985 OCT 16 PM 3:57

Tel. T.D.D. 498-9000, Ext. 9509

October 15, 1985

Paul Healy, City Clerk
c/o Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

In a recent conversation with Joe Connerton, we discussed the need to make public meetings, including City Council meetings, accessible to deaf persons by providing a sign language interpreter. The Commission on Handicapped Persons has allocated \$7,500.00 of CDBG funds for sign language interpreting services for city functions and events, and the process of contracting for those services is now underway.

Feedback from the deaf community has indicated that, at the outset, a minimum of one City Council meeting per month should be interpreted. Based on the demand that emerges, additional meetings could be signed as needed.

The Commission would appreciate your communicating to members of the City Council the plan to make one meeting per month accessible to deaf persons. The tentative plan is to have an interpreter available for the first meeting of the month, beginning in November...

Please let me know if the Commission can be of any assistance in implementing the plan to make a sign language interpreter available for the November 4, 1985 City Council meeting and for the first meeting of the month from then on. Publicity will need to accompany this service, in order to inform the deaf community about its availability.

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gail Enman, Director
Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons

15.

S-759

Comm. from Gail Enman, Dir., Commission on Handi-
capped Persons Re: making public meetings, inclu-
sive of Council meetings accessible to deaf
persons by providing a sign language interpreter.

copy sent to the City Manager 10/23/85

In City Council,

October 21, 1985

10/31/85
- Communication

Placed on

File -

- Corp -
Referred to City
Manager for Report
Motion of E Wolf