

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

November 7, 1994

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report # 17 regarding renaming the Commission on Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Education, please find attached a report from Commission Director Cathy Hoffman.

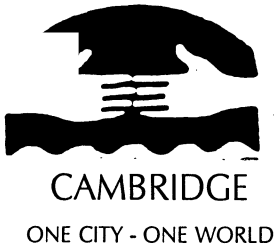
Upon approval by the City Council, I will forward the report to the Law Department to draft the appropriate ordinance change.

Very truly yours,

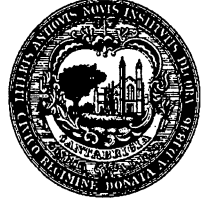
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachments



CAMBRIDGE PEACE COMMISSION
A Department of the City of Cambridge
51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 349-4694, FAX 349-4766



To: Bob Healy
City Manager

From: Cathy Hoffman
Peace Commission Director

Re: City Council Order #40, dated 6/6/94 on a name change for the
Commission on Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Education

Dear Bob,

November 1, 1994

Following the City Council order in June regarding a name change for the Commission, I wrote up an "editorial" for the Cambridge Chronicle to run the second week in September (see attached). I deliberately waited for the fall to assure maximum readership. The editorial talked about the Commission's work and posed the question about a name change. We also discussed the name question with the Commission meeting of September.

The phone calls responding to the paper and the decision within the Commission were all the same. Although one person preferred the name Peace and Justice Commission, everyone else favored "The Peace Commission". Several callers thought that the name was already the Peace Commission, so they encouraged me not to change it. No one thought that violence should be in the title. Most of the callers felt that violence prevention work should be a part of the Peace Commission but wanted it to be done in the name of "peace". Within the Commission, the members felt that having the name "Peace Commission" enabled us to pursue the broadest mission (including both neighborhood, citywide and global matters which affect Cambridge).

If you want me to pursue this any further, please let me know. Otherwise, my recommendation to the Council is to change the name from "The Cambridge Commission on Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Education" to "The Peace Commission".

Thank you for your attention,


Cathy Hoffman, director

RECEIVED
94 NOV -2 PM 3:36
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Change the Peace Commission's name? What do you think?

During budget time last year, the Cambridge City Council thought it might be time to change the name of the commission to be simply "The Peace Commission" or to include something about violence prevention in the title to reflect the changes at the commission. What do you think?

In 1982, the federal government sent money to different cities to create a nuclear war evacuation plan. Cambridge residents who had already been working to develop "peace" education in the schools joined with others to put together a pamphlet and a strategy for avoiding nuclear war. Out of this effort with the support of the Cambridge City Council, the Cambridge Commission on Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Education was born.

Since then, the commission has become the center for city efforts to "think globally and act locally." In the early days of the commission when the world situation and local fears seemed different, many new programs were begun. They included the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City project with the capitol of Armenia in the former Soviet Union, securing Cambridge as a sanctuary city open to those fleeing the terrors of El Salvador, Guatemala and Ireland, surveying companies in Cambridge with defense

BY CATHY HOFFMAN

contracts and looking at the economic need and some strategies for conversion to non-military uses, and creating conflict resolution kits for elementary school teachers.

Over the past seven years, the mission of the commission has shifted. As the US has become the most violent country in the world, the culture of violence has its effects at home. Understanding the roots of violence as based in intolerance, injustice and a culture of TV, media, and militaristic policies which glorify violence, the commission has worked extensively to support efforts which celebrate diversity, promote non-violence and encourage the building of community. The commission strengthens and connects groups and individuals throughout the city as well as being a resource center.

Current programs of the commission include:

- Supporting teachers and school staff (day care, elementary and secondary) to create curriculums and school environments that promote cooperation, celebration of diversity and appreciation for non-violence through courses in conflict resolution, workshops in violence prevention and institutes on "Creating Peaceable School En-

vironments."

- Campaign on toys of violence to look at the industry which sells violence to young children and help parents and day care workers find ways to support alternatives for children.

- Supporting and educating youth to develop skills for community leadership through a "Peace Camp" each summer

- Support efforts to promote diversity through school materials on the Caribbean, Central America and the Middle East, support for each of Cambridge's sister cities and spearheading an annual program on the Holocaust.

- Supporting community efforts for violence prevention through city-wide efforts by co-chairing the Violence Prevention Task

The commission has worked extensively to support efforts which celebrate diversity, promote non-violence and encourage the building of community.

where CRLS students from all neighborhoods host international volunteers in a summer of violence prevention, community-building and social action and a Youth Peace and Justice Corps, a multi-racial team of Cambridge youth paid to work for community justice projects (dating violence, AIDS, a radio show, community organizing, economic justice) and participate in a weekly institute where they can share their own experiences with violence, understand the roots of violence in their own lives and learn the skills of leadership for peace.

Force (made up of agencies, police, hospital, administrators, human service workers and neighborhood groups).

- Working for an end to injustice in other countries and the effects on Cambridge residents by providing a voice for city resolutions on issues of war, militarism and repression. The commission has worked with Cambridge-based peace and social justice groups to end Cambridge tax support for the war against El Salvador and the use force in the Gulf War and in

support of lifting the embargo against Cuba and the return of President Aristide to Haiti. A commission study showed how much of Cambridge tax dollars were spent for military purposes — dollars that could be reinvested in housing education and health needs at home.

The commission, with one staff person, is the smallest city department assisted by a volunteer group of commissioners (ages 18-75) representing Cambridge clergy, teachers, CRLS graduates, neighborhood ac-

tivists, security guards, and parents.

While its mission to support voices for peace-making and safety here at home is the same as its original purpose, the work of the commission has gone beyond disarmament and peace education to coordinate, support and begin local efforts for peace. Should we change our name? Please call in your views to 349-4694.

Cathy Hoffman is the director of the city's Peace Commission.

Chronicle seeks opinion columns

In an effort to expand the Open Forum section, the Chronicle is inviting readers to submit thought-provoking opinion columns for possible publication.

We hope to feature at least one guest columnist each week. Subject matter may include (but is not limited to) commentary on local or national issues, politics, business, education, sports and serious or humorous slices of life.

We know there are many talented and opinionated writers among the Chronicle's readers, and we hope the best will consider penning an occasional opinion piece.

We're interested in hearing from university professors and local experts as well as articulate readers from all walks of life and longtime residents

with special insight into life in Cambridge.

Our Letters to the Editor section will continue to function as the forum for beefs and complaints, recognition for jobs well done, and responses to printed material. As always, letters should be clearly labeled as "letters to the editor," signed with the writer's address and telephone number. Letters should be no more than 400 words.

Columnists should clearly label their work "column." We regret that we will be unable to publish all submissions. Columns should not exceed 750 words (unless the subject matter is incredibly compelling) and shorter pieces are encouraged.

Send submissions to: Editor, Cambridge Chronicle, PO Box 312, Somerville, Mass. 02144.



Home of Somerville's Best Espresso

We bring the North End to Somerville...

Caffè Rossini



- Specialty Beans sold by weight •
- All International Coffee Drinks Available •
- Italian Pastries & Pizza •
- Fresh Baked Goods Daily •

278 Highland Ave., Somerville 625-5240
Open 6:30am-9pm (Mon-Thurs) • Friday 6:30am-10pm

Main Street Video

"THE FINEST IN ADULT"

Sales • Rentals • and more...

1 Main Street
Somerville
Convenient to the T
Call 628-5514

Free Membership

with this ad



No Points No Closing Costs!

Purchase or Refinance Rates are moving DOWN

- Purchase with 3% down
- Specializing in low rates on Jumbo mortgages up to \$1 million
- MA Lender 0172
- 2 week closing on purchase loans
- Free credit check
- Qualifying ratios up to 44% of your income
- No income verification (slightly higher rate)
- Problem credit histories & unique cases considered

Action (508) 263-4950	Billerica (508) 667-6044	Boston (617) 424-6606	Concord (508) 371-6442	Framingham (508) 875-3242
Gloucester (508) 283-1353	Lynnfield (617) 596-3000	Medford (617) 391-2655	Melrose (617) 662-2929	Nashua, NH (603) 880-6682
Newburyport (508) 462-3669	Newton (617) 964-3703	NH/Seacoast (603) 925-2999	Norwood (617) 762-9006	Quincy (617) 770-2500
Reading (617) 944-9208	Tewksbury (508) 858-0348	Watertown (617) 926-0668	Wellesley (617) 235-6260	Windham, NH (603) 893-0660

Consent Agenda #16

Response to an Awaiting Report
No. Seventeen, regarding
renaming the Commission on Nuclear
Disarmament and Peace Education.

*for original see
1994 Resolutions
398.*

In City Council,

November 7, 1994

Placed on file