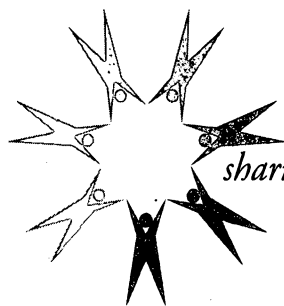


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

From: Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services

Date: March 8, 1999

RE: COUNCIL ORDER #033, dated 1/25/99 RE:

REPORT ON WHETHER THERE IS A REFERRAL LIST OF 'FIX IT' OR 'HANDY PERSONS' WHO ARE AVAILABLE TO DO SMALLER PROJECTS FOR SENIORS.

The Department of Human Service Programs has a contract for the provision of home adaptation work (grab bars installed, tub/shower sets, railings) as well as chore service (heavy cleaning of a house/apartment) and other related projects for low and moderate income seniors and disabled individuals in Cambridge. This is the Houseworks program. Previously, this contract was between the DHSP and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES). Last year, due to organizational changes within SCES, the Houseworks program was taken over by SolomontBailis Ventures, Newton, and DHSP maintains the contract with them. There has been no change in the focus of the contract, which continues to provide the same types of services for seniors and disabled individuals. In addition, SolomontBailis also runs a "Safe at Home" project, funded through Title IIIB funds, which provides minor home safety repairs for low-income seniors.

Beyond the scope of these two programs, which do have income criteria, Houseworks serves as a resource for any senior who wants to access resources for most types of home repair (plumbing, electrical, etc. For an annual fee of \$10, any senior can access these resources for home repair work through Houseworks.

SolomontBailis maintains a list of people for the fix-it/repair jobs. By providing this service through the contract, we are able to have the contracted agency take full responsibility for recruiting and maintaining the pool of qualified workers, and following up with quality assurance after the completion of the job.

Referrals for the DHSP funded program may be made by contacting the Cambridge Council on Aging, Director of Client Services, at #617-349-6220.

General home repair resource information may be obtained by calling Houseworks at #617-928-1010.

Childcare

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Community and Youth

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



8.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 15, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-19, regarding a report on whether there is a referral list of "fix it" or "handy person" who are available to do smaller projects for seniors, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #8

S-1598

Relative to AR #99-19, regarding
a report on whether there is a
referral list of "fix it" or
"Handy persons" who are available
to do smaller projects for seniors.

In City Council March 15, 1999

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