



The Cambridge Hospital



1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (617) 498-1000

February 5, 1996

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City Hall
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am writing in regards to City Council Order #053, dated January 24, 1996 requesting an update on the Cambridge Hospital/Somerville Hospital merger. Representatives from The Cambridge Hospital and Somerville Hospital leadership teams have been meeting for approximately six months and have identified several areas where the two institutions can collaborate to provide more efficient systems and to improve essential services to better meet the needs of our communities. We have organized committees to review issues such as physician affairs, clinical services, public relations/communications, fiscal, medical information and human resources. The following is a list of accomplishments that has resulted from these merger discussions:

- Three Somerville Hospital neighborhood health centers and two hospital-based primary care practices were purchased by The Cambridge Hospital through our Professional Services Corporation on January 17, 1996. These health centers are now on The Cambridge Hospital license and are benefiting from our favorable reimbursement rates. Managers from both institutions continue to work in close collaboration regarding operations of the Somerville health centers on issues such as registration, billing and staffing and are reviewing policies and protocols to move toward one uniform set of standards.

- Deborah Moran, MD is now the Chief of Psychiatry at Somerville Hospital, in addition to her appointment at Cambridge. We are overseeing their adolescent psychiatry unit and are providing medical coverage there. We have begun providing consultation services to the in-patient medical floors at Somerville and are looking at ambulatory needs as well.

- We have begun providing Ob/Gyn services at one of the Somerville health centers and plan to phase in services at the remaining four sites over the next few months, thereby bringing all Somerville deliveries to Cambridge.

●Our Social Work department is working with Somerville in the areas of continuing care and discharge planning to increase referrals to Neville Manor Nursing Home and to develop closer linkages.

●Discussions between Somerville Hospital and The Cambridge Hospital rehabilitation departments have been initiated to look at increased integration.

●Plans are underway to provide cardiology and gynecology services at Somerville Hospital specialty center, which currently operates under a private practice model.

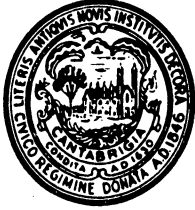
●Somerville Hospital Emergency Department doctors and surgical group have successfully negotiated to join our Professional Services Corporation and work for The Cambridge Hospital.

We continue to identify areas where the two institutions can collaborate and foresee many opportunities for existing staff, facilities and programs. As you know, within the next few weeks we will forward to the City Council the legislation creating the Cambridge Public Health Commission for the Council's review and action. I hope this will address any concerns members of the City Council may have. Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John G. O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "O'Brien" clearly distinguishable.

John G. O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

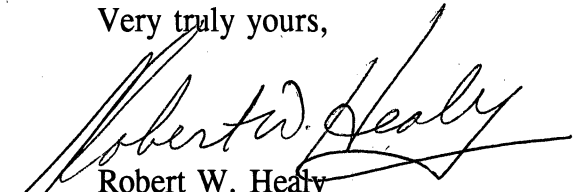
TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

February 12, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 12, regarding an update on the Cambridge Hospital/Somerville Hospital merger, received from John G. O'Brien, CEO of the Cambridge Hospital Community Health Network.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #12

S-54

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number 12, regarding an update
on the Cambridge Hospital/Somerville
Hospital merger.

In City Council February 12, 1996

Placed on file.