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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

February 7, 1979

MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting of the Handicapped Task Force will take place on Tuesday evening, February 20, 1979, at 6 p.m. in the Walnut Room. Bob Alexander, who is our new chairman, has established the following agenda:

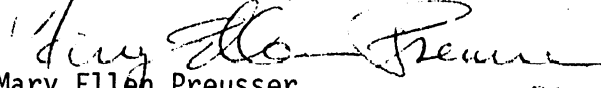
1. Discuss the 504 Advisory Committee which was adopted by a vote of the City Council. (A copy of the order and vote is attached.)
2. Discuss the Affirmative Action Plan of Cambridge as it relates to the handicapped. Evelyn Rabouin, the city's Affirmative Action Officer, has been invited to address the group.
3. Follow up on the question of making the libraries barrier free which we discussed with Mr. Sakey at our last meeting.
4. Discuss with the city's new Human Services Coordinator, Jill Herold, ways in which she and the Task Force might be helpful to one another in areas of mutual concern.

Enclosed you will find various pieces of correspondence which relate to the ongoing business of the Task Force.

I might add a personal note. The approval by City Council of various 504 actions including the establishment by our City Manager of a 504 Advisory Committee is yet another, but a very significant step forward for this committee. It is gratifying to see how much progress can be made when a committed group of volunteers get together and enlist the help of some very cooperative Department Heads to work on an important set of problems. I'm encouraged.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the twentieth.

For the Task Force,


Mary Ellen Preusser
Chairperson

City Council Human Services Committee

MEP:mt
Enclosures



City of Cambridge

2.

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 22, 1979

COUNCILLOR PREUSSER

WHEREAS:

As part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (Public Law 93-112), the Congress of the United States of America Section 504 in order to insure that programs which receive assistance from the federal government through H.E.W. to not discriminate on the basis of handicap by insisting that "no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in section 7(6), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance"; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge therefore now has a legal responsibility to take various steps, as outlined below, in order to be in compliance with the mandates of this Act of Congress in order to protect its effected federally sponsored programs and activities; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge moreover and more importantly recognizes, welcomes and accepts its moral responsibility to take affirmative steps which will insure a full and gainful life for those of our citizens who are handicapped; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge wishes to transcend its minimal requirements of law and instead institute programs and activities on behalf of the handicapped which will serve as a model for other cities throughout the nation; therefore be it

ORDERED:

That the City Manager be requested to proceed immediately to take the following steps:

- I) Designate a coordinator to insure that the City of Cambridge is in compliance with this Act.

Page Two

- II) Adopt new or assign existing grievance procedures to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints which may arise from this Act.
- III) Develop a Transition Plan for bringing the City into full compliance and then beyond which at minimum:
 - a. Identify physical obstacles in the recipient's facilities that limit the accessibility of its program or activity to handicapped persons;
 - b. Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;
 - c. Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve full program accessibility and, if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period; and
 - d. Indicate the person responsible for implementation of the plan.
- IV) Conduct a comprehensive City Self-evaluation which requires him or his designee(s) to:
 - a. Evaluate, with the assistance of interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, its current policies and practices and the effects thereof that do not or may not meet the requirements of this part;
 - b. Modify, after consultation with interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, any policies and practices that do not meet the requirements of this part; and

Page Three

- c. Take, after consultation with interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, appropriate remedial steps to eliminate the effects of any discrimination that resulted from adherence to these policies and practices.
- V) Promulgate in all ways possible notice of compliance with the Act by following these requirements of the law:
- a. A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall take appropriate initial and continuing steps to notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants, and employees, including those with impaired vision or hearing, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 and this part. The notification shall state, where appropriate, that the recipient does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. The notification shall also include an identification of the responsible employee designated pursuant to Section 84.7 (a). A recipient shall make the initial notification required by this paragraph within 90 days of the effective date of this part. Methods of initial and continuing notification may include the posting of notices, publication in newspapers and magazines, placement of notices in recipients' publication, and distribution of memoranda or other written communications.
 - b. If a recipient publishes or uses recruitment materials or publications containing general information that it makes available to participants, beneficiaries, applicants, or employees, it shall include in those materials or publications a statement of the

Page Four

policy described in paragraph (a) of this section. A recipient may meet the requirement of this paragraph either by including appropriate inserts in existing materials and publications or by revising and reprinting the materials and publications.

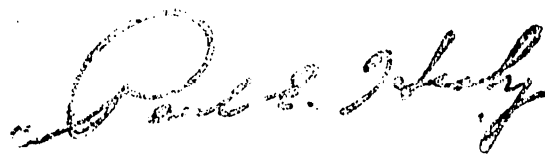
ORDERED: That in order to achieve these ambitious yet essential goals, the City Manager is further requested to appoint an Advisory Committee on the Handicapped which represents the City's diverse interests and populations yet obviously in this case has cross-disability representation; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be further requested to have this committee report to him and assist him or his designee(s) so that Cambridge might quickly and thoroughly begin to come into compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and then move forward to establish model programs and services which will protect the rights and insure opportunity for the handicapped citizens of our community.

In City Council January 22, 1979
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul E. Healy", is written over the printed name of the City Clerk.



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

February 7, 1979

Mr. Joseph Sakey
Director
Cambridge Public Libraries

Dear Joe:

On behalf of Councillor Preusser and the Handicapped Task Force, I would like to thank you for taking the time to participate at our last meeting.

The Task Force intends to follow up on the various library issues at its next meeting, as well as beyond I'm sure.

If you wish to communicate any problems or successes to the group, please call me at any time and I will keep them informed.

Thanks again.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard McKinnon", is written over the typed name and title.

Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the City Council

RM:mt



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

February 6, 1979

Ms. Evelyn Rabouin
Affirmative Action Officer
City Hall
Cambridge, MA

Dear Evelyn:

The next meeting of the Handicapped Task Force will take place on Tuesday evening, February 20, 1979, at 6 p.m. in the Walnut Room.

At this meeting, the group is interested in taking up Affirmative Action policies of the City as they relate to the handicapped.

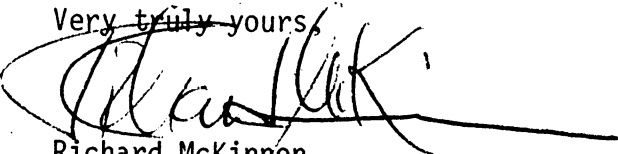
I appreciate the fact that your responsibilities are heavy and evening meetings are a problem, as they are for us all, especially the handicapped members of the Task Force who come and serve without remuneration from the City for their efforts. Nonetheless, I really ought to communicate a sense of disappointment that the Task Force feels at not having your participation at meetings to which you have been invited. They can advocate that which you can enforce and as such collaboration seems so important.

In any event, it is really essential that you come on the twentieth in that 504 as well as Affirmative Action are major agenda items.

If you are able Evelyn, it would be very helpful if you could bring along 15 copies of the city's Affirmative Action Plan for reference at the meeting by the various participants.

Thanking you in advance for the Task Force and looking forward to seeing you.

Very truly yours,


Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the City Council

RM:mt



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

February 7, 1979

Ms. Jill Herold
Coordinator, Human Services
51 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Jill:

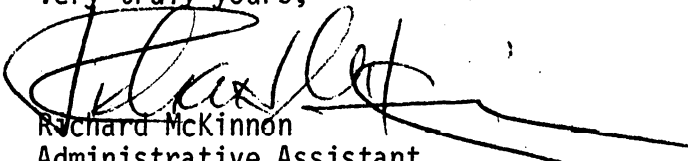
As you know, the City Council by adopting Councillor Preusser's order of January 22, 1979 has now formally determined that a 504 Advisory Committee shall be formed by the City Manager. In order to help us plan its direction, the Handicapped Task Force would like you to attend their next meeting on the twentieth of February at 6 p.m. in the Walnut Room, City Hall.

I know the group feels that your ongoing involvement as well is essential to an achievement of their objectives, which are as you know, terribly important to those people in our community who simply cannot participate fully as you and I until this job is done.

We all look forward to seeing you on the twentieth. In the meantime, give me a call if you would like to know what has been done to date.

Thanks, Jill.

Very truly yours,


Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the City Council

RM:mt

February 1, 1979

Mr. Connie Fagone
Commissioner of Public Works
Cambridge, MA

Connie:

Sometimes folks talk about you without talking to you, even when the talk is complimentary. Such is the case with the Handicapped Task Force.

On behalf of the Committee and Councillor Preusser, I would like to thank you for the time and commitment you have made to the group and their objectives. I know you are strapped for time and money, yet you have given personally a lot of your own time as well as freely allocating to the group the services of Gaston and Paul, both of whom have been great.

The committee appreciates it and I thought you ought to know that.

Very truly yours,

Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the City Council

RM:mt



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

January 25, 1979

Cambridge Historical Commission
City Hall Annex
Cambridge, MA

Members of the Commission:

As you may know the Cambridge Public Library has a unique problem. It must at once make itself barrier free so as to allow access to the handicapped; yet in so doing it must strive to preserve the distinct character of one of Cambridge's finest buildings.

Councillor Preusser, chairperson of the Council's Human Services Committee, has organized a task force dealing with problems of the handicapped. At the task force's last meeting it was decided that I should write to the Commission on its behalf to enlist your advice or help.

Are there architectural talents on the Commission which might be willing to assist Mr. Sakey in coming to grips with this problem? If so, would you be so kind as to contact him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

For Councillor Preusser
and the Task Force

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard McKinnon", is written over the typed name.

Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the City Council

RM:nt

cc Councillor Preusser
Mr. Joseph Sakey

S-78

Meeting Notice of the Handicapped Task Force
for Tuesday, February 20, 1979 at 6 P. M.

2/12/79

P/act

OH

F/c