

July 22, 1998

City Council Food Policy Committee
Ken Reeves, Chairperson

✓ City Clerk, Council Communication
1998 JUL 23 A 11:48

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
I would like to know the site locations (including dates and times), where Cambridge children can receive breakfasts, lunches and snacks after August 15th as part of the fully reimbursed Federal Summer Food Program for Children.

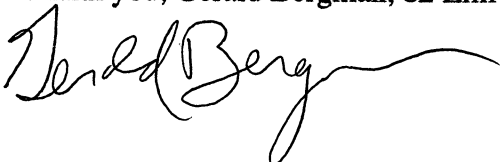
As you know, the 1991 Food Policy Referendum called for expanded nutrition programs with full multi-racial/multicultural/multi-lingual accessibility, both as to outreach and available food. Unfortunately the 1998 summer food program has suffered from a failure to take seriously the public mandate of 1991. This year's open site program has been a well-kept secret and has not measured up to the standards that previous Food Policy Committee Chairpersons and previous Mayors have demanded.

When I went to the Mayor's Office on June 29th, the opening day of the program in some locations, I discovered that aides in the Mayor's Office had no idea the program existed!

When I reported to the Mayor's Office that publicity for the program as prepared by the State and Project Bread (very insufficient as they are) were still in envelopes in the office of the department of Human Services, that breakfasts announced for the week of June 29th were erroneously listed, and that the vast majority of the residents of my neighborhood, Area Four, seemed to be unaware of the location and scope of program services they apparently took **NO ACTION!**

In past years the City Council Food Policy Committee gathered advocates and program sponsors together to plan programs, (sites, and food and outreach strategies). This no longer happens, in violation of the mandate and spirit of the 1991 Food Policy referendum. I hope that it is not too late to improve and expand this year's program, and I hope that we can be assured that this summer's failures will not be repeated in the future.

Thank you, Gerald Bergman, 82 Elm Street



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A communication was received from Gerald Berg, requesting information regarding site locations where Cambridge children can receive breakfast, lunch and snacks after August 15th as part of the fully reimbursed Federal Summer Food Program for Children.

In City Council July 27, 1998

Referred to the City Manager

for response