



City of Cambridge

15-
Calendar Item #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~June 3, 1996~~
June 10, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
MAYOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: A significant number of Cambridge residents are immigrants as measured by:

- a. Primary language spoken in the home other than English; and
- b. Percent who self-define as Latino, Portuguese, Haitian, Chinese, Korean or other nationality/ethnicity; and

WHEREAS: Immigrants make substantial economic and cultural contributions to the City of Cambridge:

- a. In the U.S., immigrants contribute \$25 billion more in taxes than they receive in benefits. ("Welfare Reform: An analysis of the Issues" Urban Institute, 1995, as cited by National Immigration Law Center document "Dole Welfare Bill Summary" 6/16/95)
- b. In the U.S. overall, immigrants, when compared to native-born of equal income, are far less likely to resort to public assistance programs (ibid.)
- c. Most of us benefit from the wealth of cultural resources in Cambridge as provided by the diverse ethnic communities residing here and consider it one of the most exciting and unique qualities of our city; and

WHEREAS: All of the residents of Cambridge except for a small number of Native Americans are descended from immigrants, many of whom worked over years to bring family members here, and respect the desire of recent immigrants to be accorded the same opportunities our parents and grandparents had; and

- WHEREAS: Cambridge has a tradition of establishing sister city relationships with cities in the countries of origin of our immigrant communities, Italy, El Salvador, Armenia, etc. for cultural exchange and in recognition of the importance of promoting international understanding; and
- WHEREAS: In the interest of the public's health, it is essential to provide preventive health services to the entire vulnerable population. Contagious diseases do not recognize accents or immigration status; and
- WHEREAS: It is universally accepted that everyone has the right to emergency medical services regardless of immigration status. Since it both saves money and decreases human suffering to provide primary preventive and therapeutic services to immigrants, these services should be provided; and
- WHEREAS: The collection of information about immigration status may inhibit people from other countries from seeking early care, thereby creating potential public health hazards or escalating health problems so that they require more expensive, emergency care; and
- WHEREAS: It is an inappropriate use of scarce and expensive health care resources to require health care providers to function as enforcers of immigration policy, a responsibility they are poorly motivated to perform and for which they are untrained; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has affirmed its position as a city of sanctuary for refugees from injustice in resolution on April 8, 1985; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That no person shall be denied health services on the basis of immigration status or lack of immigration documentation by the City of Cambridge, and Cambridge Hospital Community Health Network or any service provider or organization receiving funds from the City of Cambridge; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That no employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall disclose information about the identity, residence, employment status, diagnosis, immigration status or immigration documentation of a person seeking or receiving medical care to any other governmental agencies except if the purpose of such disclosure is to seek additional services for that person, and then only after obtaining the person's written consent; and be it further

RESOLVED: That people shall be evaluated for eligibility for publicly-funded health services without regard to their immigration status or immigration documents; and be it further

RESOLVED: That no employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall retain written or electronically stored information pertaining to a person's immigration status or documentation, except if the purpose of such retention is to provide medical or advocacy services to that person.

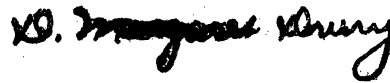
In City Council June 10, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

15.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 3, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
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- b. In the U.S. overall, immigrants, when compared to native-born of equal income, are far less likely to resort to public assistance programs (ibid.)
- c. Most of us benefit from the wealth of cultural resources in Cambridge as provided by the diverse ethnic communities residing here and consider it one of the most exciting and unique qualities of our city; and

WHEREAS: All of the residents of Cambridge except for a small number of Native Americans are descended from immigrants, many of whom worked over years to bring family members here, and respect the desire of recent immigrants to be accorded the same opportunities our parents and grandparents had; and

WHEREAS: Cambridge has a tradition of establishing sister city relationships with cities in the countries of origin of our immigrant communities, Italy, El Salvador, Armenia, etc. for cultural exchange and in recognition of the importance of promoting international understanding; and

WHEREAS: In the interest of the public's health, it is essential to provide preventive health services to the entire vulnerable population. Contagious diseases do not recognize accents or immigration status; and

WHEREAS: It is universally accepted that everyone has the right to emergency medical services regardless of immigration status. Since it both saves money and decreases human suffering to provide primary preventive and therapeutic services to immigrants, these services should be provided; and

WHEREAS: The collection of information about immigration status may inhibit people from other countries from seeking early care, thereby creating potential public health hazards or escalating health problems so that they require more expensive, emergency care; and

WHEREAS: It is an inappropriate use of scarce and expensive health care resources to require health care providers to function as enforcers of immigration policy, a responsibility they are poorly motivated to perform and for which they are untrained; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has affirmed its position as a city of sanctuary for refugees from injustice in resolution on April 8, 1985; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That no person shall be denied health services on the basis of immigration status or lack of immigration documentation by the City of Cambridge, and Cambridge Hospital Community Health Network or any service provider or organization receiving funds from the City of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That no employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall disclose information about the identity, residence, employment status, diagnosis, immigration status or immigration documentation of a person seeking or receiving medical care to any other governmental agencies except if the purpose of such disclosure is to seek additional services for that person, and then only after obtaining the person's written consent; and be it further

RESOLVED: That people shall be evaluated for eligibility for publicly-funded health services without regard to their immigration status or immigration documents; and be it further

RESOLVED: That no employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall retain written or electronically stored information pertaining to a person's immigration status or documentation, except if the purpose of such retention is to provide medical or advocacy services to that person.

TABLED ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR DUEHAY.

JUNE 14
~~DRAFT #4~~
15
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Whereas:

1. A significant number of Cambridge residents are immigrants as measured by:
 - a. Primary language spoken in the home other than English
 - b. Percent who self-define as Latino, Portuguese, Haitian, Chinese, Korean or other nationality/ethnicity
2. Immigrants make substantial economic and cultural contributions to the City of Cambridge:
 - a. In the U.S., immigrants contribute \$25 billion more in taxes than they receive in benefits. ("Welfare Reform: An analysis of the Issues" Urban Institute, 1995, as cited by National Immigration Law Center document "Dole Welfare Bill Summary" 6/16/95)
 - b. In the U.S. overall, immigrants, when compared to native-born of equal income, are far less likely to resort to public assistance programs (ibid.)
 - c. Most of us benefit from the wealth of cultural resources in Cambridge as provided by the diverse ethnic communities residing here and consider it one of the most exciting and unique qualities of our city.
3. All of the residents of Cambridge except for a small number of Native Americans are descended from immigrants, many of whom worked over years to bring family members here, and respect the desire of recent immigrants to be accorded the same opportunities our parents and grandparents had.
4. Cambridge has a tradition of establishing sister city relationships with cities in the countries of origin of our immigrant communities, Italy, El Salvador, Armenia, etc., for cultural exchange and in recognition of the importance of promoting international understanding.
5. In the interest of the public's health, it is essential to provide preventive health services to the entire vulnerable population. Contagious diseases do not recognize accents or immigration status.
6. It is universally accepted that everyone has the right to emergency medical services regardless of immigration status. Since it both saves money and decreases human suffering to provide primary preventive and therapeutic services to immigrants, these services should be provided.
7. The collection of information about immigration status may inhibit people from other countries from seeking early care, thereby creating potential public health hazards or escalating health problems so that they require more expensive, emergency care.
8. It is an inappropriate use of scarce and expensive health care resources to require health care providers to function as enforcers of immigration policy, a responsibility they are poorly motivated to perform and for which they are

untrained.

9. The City of Cambridge has affirmed its position as a city of sanctuary for refugees from injustice in resolution on April 8, 1985.

THEREFORE:

Be it resolved that:

1. No person shall be denied health services on the basis of immigration status or lack of immigration documentation by the City of Cambridge, the Cambridge Hospital Community Health Network or any service provider or organization receiving funds from the City of Cambridge.
2. No employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall disclose information about the identity, residence, employment status, diagnosis, immigration status or immigration documentation of a person seeking or receiving medical care to any other governmental agencies except if the purpose of such disclosure is to seek additional services for that person, and then only after obtaining the person's written consent.
3. People shall be evaluated for eligibility for publically-funded health services without regard to their immigration status or immigration documents.
4. No employee of the City of Cambridge or employee of a service provider which receives funds from the City of Cambridge shall retain written or electronically stored information pertaining to a person's immigration status or documentation, except if the purpose of such retention is to provide medical or advocacy services to that person.

WHEREAS: In the interest of the public's health, it is essential to provide preventive health services to the entire vulnerable population. Contagious diseases do not recognize accents or immigration status; and

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IN CITY COUNCIL

June 3, 1996

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Boen, Sullivan, Toomey & Triantafyllou
Consent Order #15

Cal. 2

Councillor Duehay re: To provide
medical or advocacy services to the
significant number of Cambridge
residents who are immigrants
regardless of their status.

5-312

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In City Council June 3, 1996

Table by Councillor Duehay

6/10/96 Order Adopted.
9-0-0.