

The Cambridge Food Pantry Network

11 Inman Street • Cambridge, MA 02139 • (617) 868-2900

May 17, 1994

4.

Ms. Kathy Born, Chair of the City Council Hunger Committee
Members of the Cambridge City Council,
Robert Healy, City Manager
Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager
Marilyn Tompkins, Food Service Director
City Clerk

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
MAY 17 PM 2:30
CAMBRIDGE MA.

RE: Passage on May 16, by a 9-0 vote, the order to offer "full meals" at open park sites this summer through August 19.

I want to congratulate the entire city council for unanimously passing an order which will bring upwards of 8,000 lunches to Cambridge children this summer under a program which allows the cost of those meals to be paid for by the Federal Government.

As coordinator of the Cambridge Food Pantry Network, and Co-Chair of the Hunger and Nutrition Committee of the Health of the City Task Force, I am prepared to begin meeting immediately with the appropriate city staff to help in any way that I can to make this program as successful as possible.

As you know, the Cambridge Food Pantry Network has already guaranteed funding for the necessary coolant bags used in the delivery of these meals.

With only six full weeks remaining before the start of this critically important program, the Department of Human Services and the City Food Service must commit themselves to this program as soon as possible if adequate outreach is to be done. Thus far, the Department of Human Services has been unwilling to commit to full meals in the parks.

I am also aware that some transportation schedule adjustment will have to be made to bring meals to the parks close to the distribution times. I believe that in light of the opportunity to serve 8,000 lunches, we can make this adjustment. There is also support by the City Council for extending the park program one additional week. It has been a concern over the past several years that there is too large a gap in time between the end of the summer food program for children and the start of school. Necessary staffing adjustments in park programming may also have to be discussed.

Finally, I am again encouraging the City of Cambridge to provide an "enhanced" lunch in the parks. At the Hunger Committee Hearing of May 4, it was clearly stated that it was not a financial concern that limited the lunch to current specifications. (See page 5 of the Hunger Committee report as presented to the Council on May 16th). An enhanced lunch would add juice and a low-fat desert to the current lunches being offered. It has been the experience of park programs, such as in Somerville, that such an enhanced lunch is not

only more nutritionally valuable, but it also makes the lunch much more attractive to kids in the parks. After all, it is not enough to offer a lunch, we must also be committed to providing a nutritionally sound lunch that kids will eat.

Again, I congratulate the City Council for unanimously passing this order which will bring needed food to our children. We have been offered the full support of Project Bread, the city of Somerville which has already had extensive experience with park food programs, and the residents of Cambridge who have committed themselves to making this program a reality this summer.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald Bergman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" and last name "Bergman" clearly distinguishable.

Gerald Bergman
Coordinator

Cambridge Food Pantry Network

Consent Comm. # 4

8-2-88

Comm. from The Cambridge Food Pantry
Network regarding the full meals at open
park sites this summer.

In City Council,

May 23, 1994

Referred to the
City Manager.
Copy sent to City Mgr
5/24/94 (ae)