



CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan M. Flannery, Director of Libraries *SMF*

DATE: March 5, 1997

RE: Council Order 21, 022497 2/26/97

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Cambridge Public Library currently provides two public access computers which allow Internet access. Both computers are located in the adult reference room of the main library. These computers have been in operation for almost three years and they are used by 450 - 500 users each month. Library users may sign up in advance to reserve an hour time slot on a machine. Walk-ins are accommodated on a first come first served basis when there are no reservations. Although children are not prohibited from using the Internet, in reality they are not frequent users. Since the machines are located in a busy adult area, the few who do use it are usually accompanied by an adult.

The Cambridge Public Library has historically honored the library patron's right to privacy in their use of library materials. We have maintained the same principle in our provision of Internet service and have not found it to be abused by our patrons. The library staff has been monitoring what Internet sites are visited by our users as a group. In our analysis of library use, we have determined that the overwhelming number of our users are visiting legitimate research and/or reference sites.

Main Library	Boudreau Branch	Central Square Branch	Collins Branch	O'Connell Branch	North Branch	Valente Branch
449 Broadway	245 Concord Avenue	45 Pearl Street	64 Aberdeen Avenue	48 Sixth Street	70 Rindge Avenue	826 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138	02138	02139	02138	02141	02140	02141
617-349-4040	349-4017	349-4010	349-4021	349-4019	349-4023	349-4015



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

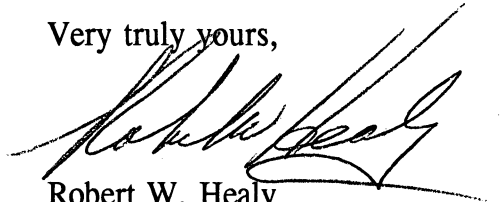
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 17, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item #18, regarding policy for preventing minors from accessing pornographic material on the internet, please find attached a response submitted by Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/dls
enclosure

Consent Agenda #6

S-139

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Eighteen, regarding the
policy preventing minors from
accessing pornographic materials
on the internet.

In City Council March 17, 1997

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