



**City of Cambridge**  
**Department of Human Service Programs**  
51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, 498-9076

TO: Robert W. Healy  
FROM: Jill Herold  
DATE: December 21, 1990  
RE: Response to Council Order No. 1, 9/17/90; Distribution of food stamps in the Senior Citizens buildings

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There are three distribution sites for food stamps in Cambridge. Elders are mailed a voucher each month between the first day through the 13th of the month, depending on their social security numbers. They must then take the voucher to one of the three food stamp distribution sites to get their stamps. If a person is unable to go to the site, they may appoint an Authorized Representative who will pick up their stamps for them. In order to do that, there is a form to fill out and the Authorized Rep must go to the Welfare Office and have a picture ID taken. There is no limit as to the number of people for which an Authorized Rep may pick up stamps.

We asked the Food Stamp supervisor if there was any way that someone from Welfare could come to the buildings to distribute food stamps. She said they are not permitted to do that. Due to the elimination of Tenant Services at the Housing Authority, they do not have staff who could pick up stamps for people. If the Tenant Senate Chairperson of each building could get an active resident to volunteer to become the Authorized Rep for elderly tenants unable to get to the distribution site, this volunteer could pick up the stamps for people in the building.

Another complaint Councillor Russell received related to the fact that distribution sites have cut their hours and sometimes when the person gets there, they have run out of food stamps. We talked with the Food Stamp supervisor regarding these two issues and she said that the sites have cut their hours and that if a person receives his/her voucher toward the end of the mailing cycle and then waits to pick them up a week or two later, there is a chance they could be out of stamps. Therefore, Authorized Reps should be advised to pick up stamps as soon as the voucher has been received by mail.

We would be most happy to share information with all Tenant Senate Chairpersons via a letter so they know the procedure involved should they wish to institute a voluntary program within their buildings.

DIVISIONS: JH/cg

Childcare  
498-9076

Community Learning Center  
547-1589

Community & Youth  
498-9037/9072

Council on Aging/Elderly Services  
498-9039

Low Income Fuel Assistance  
498-9038

Planning & Development  
498-9076

Recreation  
498-9028

MultiService Center/Homeless Services  
864-6340

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300  
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

January 7, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 47, regarding distribution of food stamps in the Senior Citizens buildings, attached please find a report from Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mev  
attachment

Agenda # 19

S-78

Awaiting Report Item Number 47 regarding  
distribution of food stamps in the  
Senior Citizens buildings.

In City Council,

January 7, 1991

*Placed in file*