



City of Cambridge

17.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 10, 1973

Councillor Vellucci

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS REQUESTING THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FOOD STAMP PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE CALLING OF A CONGRESS OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO ASSESS THE OVERALL HUMAN SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM IN CAMBRIDGE FOR PURPOSES OF RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL AN APPROPRIATE LOCAL RESPONSE.

WHEREAS throughout the United States the financial picture is one of flux creating an inflationary economy and decreased buying power for all Americans, but more especially so for those on fixed incomes, particularly our senior citizens; and

WHEREAS Presidential proposals for the allocation of United States tax dollars are not being directed to those areas of the economy which would contribute to the betterment of life for those whose resources are limited and/or fixed; and

WHEREAS many existing federal social service programs which have served to assist our Senior Citizens have witnessed the impoundment of appropriated monies by Presidential order; and

WHEREAS the Commodity Foods Program for Senior Citizens will be phased out by the end of this calendar year resulting in increased hardship for those dependent on the nutritional supplements provided through the program; and

WHEREAS plans to provide for the nutrition of our Senior Citizens through the Federal Food Stamp Program and State supplements are presently mired down in both the federal and state bureaucracies awaiting eligibility determinations and guidelines; and

WHEREAS malnutrition is increasingly becoming cause for our Senior Citizens to seek hospital admission or medical attention; and

WHEREAS the rental costs of housing in Cambridge, despite the existence of rent control and leased housing, are prohibitive for many of our elderly citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of Cambridge request the Congress of the United States to declare the City of Cambridge as being in a formal State of Emergency relative to the nutrition of those on fixed incomes; and

FURTHERMORE that through the appropriate federal and state administrative mechanisms, the funds for the federal food stamp program be immediately made available to the City of Cambridge; and that the City Manager be directed to immediately convene a congress of all senior citizens and agencies serving the elderly to more completely assess the plight of our older Americans in the area of nutrition and other Human Services; and that in assembly, the congress of local elderly draft for the City Council recommendations as to what further assistance the staff and elected representatives of this City may be to assisting them in maintaining a quality of life consistent with their rightful due as Older Americans; and

FURTHERMORE that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Congressman Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., House Majority Leader, and Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke, Department of Health Education and Welfare, Department of Agriculture, State Office of Elder Affairs, the State Department of Public Welfare and other appropriate local, state and federal officials.

City Council, Sept 10, 1923

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Paul E. Healy.

CITY CLERK

City Clerk

Order # 17.

341

C. Vellucci-resolution re: Food Stamps.

Copy sent to:

Senator Brook

Senator Kennedy

Representative O'Neil

State off of Elder Affairs

State Dept of Public Welfare

Dept of Health Ed & Welfare

Dept of Agriculture

9/14/73

dl

In City Council,

Sept. 10, 1973

CV/A