

Vice-Mayor Russell urged both the Council on Aging and the Committee on Elders to hold joint meetings from time to time to avoid duplicity of services and confusion. Furthermore, he stated he would personally contact the local universities to determine whether or not they would be willing to donate a van or a sum of money to continue running the present one.

The Vice-Mayor further expressed his concerns over the personal safety of the elderly citizens using the van and questioned whether or not it was properly maintained and inspected.

Neither Mr. Harnick nor Mr. Healy were certain when the van had last been inspected, but Mr. Harnick assured the committee that normal repairs had been done although such repairs were not properly budgeted.

Mr. Healy assured the committee he would contact the Public Works Commissioner to arrange for the inspection of the van. However, he stated the city really could not take responsibility for regular maintenance of a private vehicle.

Councillor Wylie stated that it seemed pretty clear that the only way of properly continue the elder van was through property tax money and urged all parties present to work toward that resolve.

Regarding other problems effecting the elderly, Dorothea Johnson stated her concern over the fact that 174 units of housing at Washington Elms will be vacated during rehabilitation and those residents will be given preference for senior citizen developments and section 8 leased housing.

Richard Griffin agreed with the statement and informed the committee he has attempted to discuss this action with the Cambridge Housing Authority, but has not had any success.

Mr. Griffin also raised the issue of cooperative developments in Cambridge and informed the Committee the Rent Control Board has recently adopted a new regulation to deal with it.

Councillor Wylie suggested that possibly the Committee should meet with the Housing Authority regarding the Washington Elms issue.

The Vice-Mayor requested the Deputy City Clerk to contact Mr. Wuenschel, Executive Director of the Cambridge Housing Authority to arrange such a meeting.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:25 p. m.

For the Committee,

Vice-Mayor Leonard J. Russell,  
Chairman.

# City of Cambridge

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In City Council June 23, 1980

## *The* City Council *Committee* on Elder Affairs

with Vice-Mayor Leonard Russell, Chairman and Councillor David Wylie present held a meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, June 18, 1980 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

Vice-Mayor Russell stated he had called the meeting in order to discuss problems, in general, which may be effecting the elderly as well as the future funding of the "elder van".

Assistant City Manager Robert Healy stated that essentially the City Manager's previous position had not changed in that the Somerville Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee had not filed a request for additional funding to the Community Services Agency and the City was reluctant to expend property tax money to continue the van.

Alan Harnik, Assistant Executive Director of SCEOC responded by stating his agency had in fact been in contact with the C.S.A. and was told no additional funding was available but any unexpended money within SCEOC could be utilized for the continuation of the van. He further stated that the agency is about to undergo an audit, so it will be sometime before it is known what, if any kind of money is available.

Vice-Mayor Russell stated he did not want any elderly person in the City to be deprived of services and urged both SCEOC and the Assistant City Manager to come together on this funding issue.

Mr. Healy stated that as a condition to property tax funding of the elder van the city would take its operation over and place it under the jurisdiction of the Council on Aging. He emphasized however, that primary responsibility for funding the elder van should be with SCEOC.

Speaking in support of continuation of the elder van, regardless of who will run it were:

Edward Deluca, President of the Committee on Elders.

Dorothea Johnson, Committee on Elders.

Elsa Stern, Health Policy Board.

Richard Griffin, Executive Director, Council on Aging.

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# REPORT

Committee on Elder Affairs.

In City Council,

June 23, 1980

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Manager -

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