



9.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

November 6, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-79, regarding a report on the supply and demand of handicapped accessible housing, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold reports the following:

Rental housing that is accessible to people with disabilities generally falls into three categories. First, there are "fully adapted" apartments, which have been built or renovated to be completely barrier-free for tenants who use wheelchairs. Second, there are "partially adapted" units, which, while not barrier-free, are generally usable by tenants with mobility impairments. Third, there are "adaptable" units that can be readily modified for occupancy by a wheelchair user. Of course, each type can be subsidized or non-subsidized.

I have been gathering information on accessible housing from the following sources:

- Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA)
- Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)
- MassAccess Accessible Housing Registry
- Cambridge Multi-Service Center

Unfortunately, none of these sources offers a complete picture of the supply of and demand for accessible housing in Cambridge. CHA only keeps track of units under their control. MHFA only tracks apartment developments that have received government financing. MassAccess only monitors vacant accessible units that have been reported by landlords to their statewide housing registry. However, I have been combining and compiling data from these various sources and will share that information with the City Council when that work is complete.

Based on the information tallied thus far, the general picture that emerges is one of short supply, very low vacancy rates, and long waiting lists for accessible housing.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Communication from Robert W. Healy, City Manager, relative to Awaiting Report Item Number 00-79 regarding a report on the supply and demand of handicapped accessible housing.

In City Council November 6, 2000

*Placed on file &
Referred to the Housing
Committee on motion of
Councillor Davis
Copy sent to Housing Committee
11/8/00 @*