

In CC packets



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

Memorandum

January 7, 2000

To: The Honorable, Cambridge City Council Members

From: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Subject: Inspection Program for Multi-Family Housing

During the fiscal year 2000 budget hearings, funding was approved by the Council to fund an additional building inspector in the Inspectional Services Department for the purpose of conducting inspections of multi-family housing as required by the State Building Code. This inspector is now on-board and inspections are expected to begin shortly.

Attached for your information is a memorandum from Commissioner Bersani that outlines the planned program.

Very truly yours,

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

Robert W. Healy



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT 831 MASS. AVE.
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 (617) 349-6100

ROBERT R. BERSANI

Commissioner

Memorandum

January 7, 2000

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Bob Bersani, Inspectional Services

Subject: Inspection Program for Multi-Family Housing

As you are aware, the State Building Code requires that multi-family housing, defined as residential buildings containing three or more housing units, be inspected on a five year cycle for compliance with the provisions of the Building Code.

In order to comply with this requirement and for reasons of public safety, funding was provided in this years budget to hire an additional building inspector to manage this inspection program. This new inspector, David Anderson, is now on-board and we are planning to initiate inspections shortly with a target date of February 1st. As this is a new program, efforts will be made to publicize the program in the local media and public television. Also, building owners will be notified individually by letter of the rationale for the inspection requirement and the inspection will be closely coordinated with the owner or their representative.

Key elements of the program are:

- The inspections will focus on matters concerning public safety in building common areas, e.g.; stairs, egress signs and lighting, exterior facades, parapets, porches, fire escapes, electrical hazards, etc.
- A Certificate of Inspection(CI), valid for five years, will be issued at the completion of the inspection. The inspection fee is set by the Building Code at \$75 plus \$2 per dwelling unit. There is no fee for three unit multi-families. (Note: these fees can be modified or waived by ordinance).
- As there are in excess of 2600 multi-family buildings in the City, I expect it will take four to five years to complete a cycle with the one inspector assigned. An effort will be made to spread the inspections such that there is not a concentration in a particular section of the City.

Very truly yours,


R. R. Bersani

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Memorandum from the City Manager
regarding the Inspection Program
for Multi-Family Housing.

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