



City of Cambridge

52.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 20, 1995

COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR MYERS
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: The National League of Cities Conference, held last week in Washington, D.C., sponsored a workshop on "Reinventing Your Local Government's Budgeting Process." Among the presenters were appointed and elected officials from a number of cities including Palo Alto, California (Pop: 58,000) and Hampton, Virginia (Pop: 135,000); and

WHEREAS: They described how their cities had adopted new budget formats called Performance-Based, Value-Drive or Mission Driven Budgeting. In this form of budget, costs are attached to individual services, often on an interdepartmental basis rather than to more traditional line items like personnel, materials, debt services, etc.; and

WHEREAS: Quantitative performance measures are then applied to each service (i.e. frequency of service, response time, etc.) so that the implications of cuts or increases of funding can be readily assessed. Appointed and elected officials from these cities explained that this format makes the budget process more accessible to the public and that it facilitates decisions regarding increases or decreases for individual services; and

WHEREAS: Many other cities are moving towards this budget format through a process that is estimated to take as long as five years for cities the size of Cambridge. Several other cities such as San Francisco, Phoenix and Minneapolis are instituting zero-based budget processes which attach costs to each program and evaluates their success individually in a public forum before funding is continued in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS: As our budget process progresses this year and the Council is faced with difficult choices, we should keep in mind how the process itself and the format of the budget might be changed in the future to facilitate these choices and better involve the public in these choices; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to obtain information from these communities and others who have recently instituted Mission Based Budgets and call a Public Hearing, after the conclusion of this year's budget process, to discuss whether such an initiative might be in the interest of our city, its elected and appointed officials and most importantly, the public.

In City Council March 20, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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Myles Gallucci Sullivan

CM-110

Consent Order #52

Councillors Born, Triantafillou re:
National League of Cities Conference
in Washington D.C.

In City Council March 20, 1995

Order adopted
9-0-0