

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

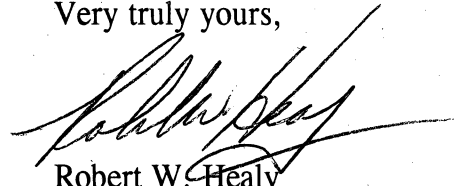
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 30, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11, regarding the opening of City Foods rear door, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER
*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

BETH RUBENSTEIN
*Deputy Director for
Community Development*

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: ^{SBS} Susan B. Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community
Development

DATE: March 25, 1998

SUBJECT: Council Order 007, dated 3/2/98, Opening of City Foods Rear Door

The building at 600 Massachusetts Avenue currently occupied by City Foods has two means of egress: an automatic door on Massachusetts Avenue and a rear door which opens on Green Street. The rear door had been closed as an exit for shoppers under the Purity Supreme store which preceded City Foods. Although shoppers who live in the nearby elderly housing liked the convenience of exiting the back door and being only a few steps from home, Purity closed the door because it provided ready egress for shoplifters; hiring a security guard was too costly.

When City Foods took over the facility, the owner responded to requests from customers to open the back door by complying. However, Mr. Grenon's experience over the last nine months has been that the back door provides an uncontrolled exit for shoplifters, making it unfeasible to keep the door open full time in the future. Mr. Grenon began exploring options for retaining convenience for customers while gaining control of activity around the rear door and has kept the door open during the exploration phase. In exploring these options he has spoken to and met with residents of the elderly housing, the Community Development staff and Handicapped Commission staff. Currently two options are under consideration: keep the rear door open for a limited number of hours which will be posted or close the door permanently and provide direct delivery to the residents of the elderly housing. Each option has costs and regulatory implications which Mr. Grenon is exploring. Mr. Grenon would be happy to meet with the Food Policy Committee to discuss the problem and options. I will keep you apprised when a decision has been reached.

City Hall Annex
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Voice: 617 349-4600
Fax: 617 349-4669
TTY: 617 349-4621

Consent Agenda #3

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Relative to Awaiting Report
Item Number Eleven, regarding
the opening of City Foods rear
door.

In City Council March 30, 1998

Referred to
Food Policy Committee on motion
of Councillor Russell.

3/31 sent to C. Reeves