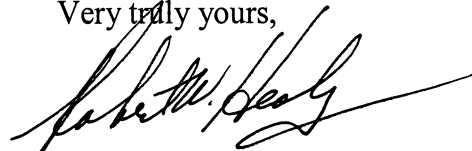


Following the community meeting, SCES announced that any decision to close the Burns Apartments meal site has been delayed pending the following:

- SCES will allow a sufficient amount of time (at least three (3) months) for the residents of the Burns apartments to experience service through the new contract to see if there is an improved quality of the food, thus resulting in an increase in the numbers of diners.
- SCES will undertake, sometime after December, 2002, an overall evaluation of all nine (9) meals sites in both cities, rather than just focusing on the site at the Burns Apartments. They will look at the viability of all sites. SCES plans to involve the Directors of the Cambridge and the Somerville Councils on Aging in the criteria being used for the evaluation process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



2.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

September 9, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-56, regarding a report on the study being performed by the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold reports the following:

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) operates nine (9) meals sites for seniors across the cities of Cambridge and Somerville. (five (5) sites in Cambridge and four (4) sites in Somerville.)

The meal site at the Burns Apartment, on Churchill Avenue, Cambridge is one of these sites. It provides meals to seniors five days a week, Monday through Friday. In June, residents were notified by SCES staff that the meal site would likely be closed within a sixty (60) day period from that time, due to low attendance at the meals. SCES reported that the revenue from the suggested meal donations from diners was not enough to cover the costs of the running the meal site. SCES said they need an average of twenty (20) diners a day at that site to keep it financially viable, and they are getting approximately ten (10) to twelve (12) diners a day.

In response to expressed concerns, SCES held a community meeting at the Burns Apartments the end of June. Approximately 50 senior residents of the Burns Apartments attended to convey their concerns to SCES staff about the closing of the site. A majority of the seniors who spoke at the meeting said that the poor quality of the food served was the main reason that more people did not eat at Burns meal site.

SCES is currently out to bid for a vendor to provide meals at the various sites. The current vendor will end their three-year contract at the end of September. SCES will be choosing a new vendor by the end of July and that vendor's three-year contract will begin October 1, 2002.

S-257

Consent Agenda #2

**Awaiting Report Item Number
02-56**, regarding a report on the
study being performed by the
Somerville-Cambridge Elder
Services.

In City Council September 9, 2002

PLACED ON FILE.