



City of Cambridge

R-32.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 6, 2008

COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MAHER
VICE MAYOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SEIDEL
MAYOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: On Tuesday, September 23, 2008, a delegation of 13 Cambridge representatives boarded an Amtrak train to travel to New York City; and
- WHEREAS: The purpose of this trip was to attend a "Practitioners Institute" organized by Geoffrey Canada and Rasuli Lewis of the Harlem Children's Zone, and to meet Dr. Ronald Mincy, author of "Black Men Left Behind" and "Nurturing Young Black Boys"; and
- WHEREAS: The 13 person Cambridge Delegation represented a select group from the Cambridge City Council Sub-Committee on Human Services and Youth—a committee of nearly 30 persons. The size of the delegation was limited by the Harlem Children's Zone requirements; and
- WHEREAS: The members of the Cambridge delegation were: E. Denise Simmons, Mayor, Kenneth E. Reeves, City Councillor, Sam Seidel, City Councillor, Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services, Claude-Alix Jacob, Cambridge Chief Public Health Officer, Robert Haas, Police Commissioner, Carolyn Turk, Assistant Superintendent for Cambridge Public Schools, Mary Wong, Director, Kids' Council, Lei-Anne Ellis, Director, Childcare and Family Support, DHSP, Lauren Leikin, Agenda for Children Literacy Coordinator, Susan Richards, Agenda for Children Out of School Time Coordinator, and John Clifford, Research Assistant; and
- WHEREAS: The delegation began its work with a working dinner attended by Dr. Ronald Mincy of Columbia University School of Social Work. The dinner provided the opportunity to learn in depth about the important connection that non-nuclear fathers can and often do have to their children; and

WHEREAS: After a decidedly “uncomfortable” night at New York City’s Riverside Tower, the group traveled by subway to the Harlem Children’s Zone headquarters at 35 E. 125th Street. The HCZ experience began with staff introductions and a session with Geoffrey Canada, who lingered with the group for a time longer than expected. He shared with the delegation the journey which led to the conceptualization of the HCZ; and

WHEREAS: The Harlem Children’s Zone is a currently \$62 million dollar program which is community based and seeks to assure the “success” of every child within a 97 square block area of Harlem. The “Zone” is a place where a “whole community” seeks to nurture a “whole family” that will grow up children who are “whole” and “successful”, i.e. college graduates who can return to Harlem and contribute to their community; and

WHEREAS: The HCZ Practitioners Institute consisted of a series of individual meetings with various program leaders of several select HCZ programs. We learned that the underlying theme of all HCZ programs is that all programs will “Do whatever it takes” to help HCZ children and families succeed. This is not a commitment to say “success”, but to definitely “achieve success.” This is the 21st century version on Malcolm X’s “By any means necessary” admonition; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: Cambridge went to Harlem and gained many insights from the programs at the Harlem Children’s Zone and about the programs back home in Cambridge. The visit was enlightening—transformative, even. The group also grew as a team, even more dedicated to the success of programs for Cambridge children and their families. A sincere thanks to you for your participation. On behalf of the People of Cambridge, Thank You!!!

In City Council October 6, 2008.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its thanks to Lei-Anne Ellis, Childcare and Family support, DHSP, Robert Haas, Police Commissioner, Claude-Alix Jacob, Cambridge Chief Public Health Officer, Lauren Leikin, Agenda for Children Literacy Coordinator, Susan Richards, Agenda for Children, Richard Rossi, Deputy City Manager, Sam Seidel, City Councillor, Denise E. Simmons, Mayor, Carolyn Turk, Assistant Superintendant for Cambridge Public Schools and Mary Wong, Director, Kid's Council for visiting the Harlem Children Zone; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the attendees on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 6, 2008.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

RESOLUTION #32

Thanks to the attendees who visited
the Harlem Children Zone
**Councillor Reeves and entire
membership**

**In City Council
October 6, 2008**

ORDER ADOPTED