

Councillor Graham stated the city should look into the possibility of establishing a training program with the Eastern Middlesex Human Resource Development Agency (E.M.H.R.D.A.) which would involve training high school students for nursing assistant positions for the Manor.

Mayor Vellucci stated he would like the City Manager and Mr. Mulcahy to provide to the City Council the number and dates of inspections made of the Manor by the State Department of Public Health. The Mayor further stated that it is the City Council who is ultimately responsible for problems at the Manor and consequently should have as much information as possible about its operations. Councillor Wylie agreed with the Mayor and stated that although the Health Policy Board serves a useful purpose, a truly well run agency depends on accountability and the professionalism of the staff. He further stated that it should be the City Manager's number one priority to find professional people to fill the gaps at the Manor.

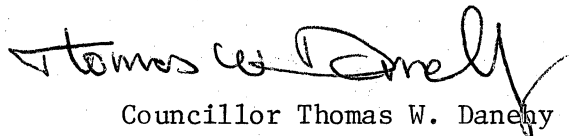
In response to both Mayor Vellucci and Councillor Wylie, Ms. Feldman, Ph.D., Chairman of the Health Policy Board, stated that the board has felt frustrated for a long period of time in attempting to deal with the many issues of the Manor. She further stated that possibly consideration should be given to appointing a director of the hospital who would also serve as the administrator of the Manor.

Councillor Danehy questioned the status of the housekeeping department at the Manor and whether or not it was in compliance with state regulations. The City Manager responded by stating that it was in pretty good shape and in compliance. Mr. Mulcahy stated that routine cleaning is now being done six times per day throughout the Manor.

At this time Dr. Chalfen commended the many municipal resources placed at his disposal during this particular time and in particular cited both Ms. Corvine and Ms. Woody for outstanding personal commitment and their high level of professionalism.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.

For the Committee,


Councillor Thomas W. Danehy
Chairman

TWD/smc

City of Cambridge

In City Council February 28, 1983

The Committee on Health and Hospitals conducted a public meeting on Thursday, February 17, 1983, beginning at 8:25 AM in the conference room of the Neville Manor. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent report issued by the State Commissioner of Public Health relative to the Neville Manor.

City Manager Robert W. Healy outlined to those present the recent background leading up to the latest inspection of the Manor. Mr. Healy further stated that the most recent inspection by the State Department of Public Health took place in November of 1982 and it was unsatisfactory. Particular criticism was given to the lack of an adequate nursing staff. Mr. Healy further stated that he received official notice of the Department's concern and further action on January 28, 1983. He further stated that he has asked the City's Health Commissioner, Dr. Chalfen and the Senior Assistant Director for Nurses, Beverly Gorvine, and her assistant Penelope Woody to take remedial action to correct the administrative and nursing deficiencies at the Manor immediately. This remedial action will include recruitment, in-service training, and some roof renovations.

Mr. Healy further stated that these individuals have virtually been working day and night between their regular duties at the hospital and working at the Manor in an effort to resolve the problems. He further stated the city is in a 120-day appeal process during which time many of the deficiencies outlined should be well on the way to being corrected. Mr. Healy went on to state that if the Department of Public Health felt that we were or could be in compliance within 60 days the Department would withdraw their letter of non-compliance. Mr. Healy stated that presently Mr. Mulcahy is serving as the Acting Administrator and that advertisements for both a permanent administrator and director of nurses will be done soon.

Furthermore, he said, he has had hired a consultant who is an expert in the area of nursing home certification who will be working with the appropriate city personnel for a short period of time until the problems at the Manor are resolved.

Councillor Danehy and Mayor Vellucci raised questions regarding the alleged nursing deficiencies as well as the excessive use of per diem nurses. Mayor Vellucci stated he had been contacted by the former Nursing Director who stated that her repeated requests to the former administrator for additional staff went unanswered.

Councillor Wylie requested that the City Manager and Health Commissioner, prepare for review by the City Council the issues of non-compliance and the progress being made to resolve the issues so that the entire membership of the City Council is up-to-date on this important issue.

8.

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REPORT

Committee on Health & Hospitals

Re: the Neville Manor.

In City Council,

February 28, 1983

2/28/1983

Precedon File