



# City of Cambridge

Comm. and Reports #1

IN CITY COUNCIL  
June 16, 1997

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

- ORDERED: That the City Manager and the Mayor be requested to appoint a new Task Force on Welfare Reform for a two year period, with a review of its effectiveness by the City Council at the end of this time; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Human Services Department to organize information programs on ways of addressing the requirements of welfare reform for Cambridge adults, in conjunction with local non-profit agencies, Somerbridge and the Cambridge School Department; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Task Force to request more detailed statistical information on Cambridge households affected by welfare reform from the State Department of Transitional Assistance; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Task Force to examine and monitor the policies and plans of the Commonwealth with regard to immigrant policy and welfare reform, comment on proposed regulations as they become available, and recommend to the City Manager and the City Council any initiatives that in their judgment need to be made to the Commonwealth; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Task Force to monitor pending state legislation and to recommend to him and the City Council endorsements or amendments need in their judgment to be made to the legislative and executive branches.

In City Council June 16, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

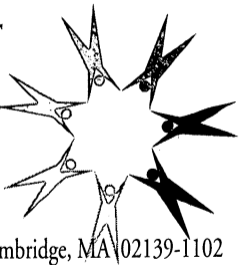
ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

# Department of Human Service Programs

**Stephanie Pousson Ackert**

*Director of Planning & Development*



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**Cambridge City Council**

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# **Welfare Reform and Cambridge**

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**Understanding the Effects of the 1996  
Federal Welfare Reform Act**

**Prepared for Councillor Francis H. Duehay  
by Parul Singh, Harvard College Intern**

**June 1997**

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**Welfare Reform and Cambridge:  
Understanding the Effects of the 1996 Federal Welfare Reform Act**

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**WELFARE REFORM AND CAMBRIDGE:  
UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF THE 1996 FEDERAL WELFARE REFORM ACT**

**PREAMBLE**

My task for the winter and spring of 1997 was to study the effects of the Welfare Reform Act on the citizens of Cambridge, working under the direction of Councillor Duehay. I read many papers and articles, did research, initiated and attended a number of meetings with individuals and groups and reviewed pending state legislation. I wish to thank particularly Mark Rukavina of the Somerbridge Community Health Partnership, Stephanie Ackert of the Cambridge Human Services Department, and Nancy Ryan of the Cambridge Women's Commission for their suggestions. In particular, I wish to thank Stephanie Ackert for reviewing this draft and making important suggestions.

**INTRODUCTION**

On August 22, 1996 President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, a bill aimed at "ending welfare as we know it." The Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation with far-reaching implications for a multitude of federal programs. The Act aims to save an estimated \$55 billion over the next five years, with most of the savings due to changes in the Food Stamp Program and reductions in benefits for legal immigrants. Another of the serious implications of the Act is the elimination of the guarantee of direct federal assistance to low income families in cities. In summary, the Act:

- Dismantles the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (AFDC) and creates a new program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). TANF now provides federal funding in block grants to the states.
- Makes far-reaching changes to child care, the Food Stamp Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for children, benefits for legal immigrants, and the Child Support Enforcement program; in effect it removes the safety net that has provided security for the country's poorest families and children.
- Modifies child nutrition programs and reduces the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).
- Gives states until July 1, 1997 to determine the allocation of reduced resources in the form of block grants, and the structure of state programs.

## PROVISIONS AND IMPACT OF ACT

The bill is expected to impact these specific communities especially:

- current AFDC recipients (citizen and non-citizen)
- poor children
- legal immigrants
- elderly

For a detailed summary of the Act's provisions, please see the article in the appendix.

## LOCAL IMPACTS

Residents may expect local as well as state governments to compensate in some manner for the basic need services and resources that are being removed by the bill, simply because many of the affected populations are concentrated in cities. While the new law gives state governments greater flexibility to create new, innovative programs to deal with low-income populations, it also allows them to further cut resources and services that are currently available. Municipal social service, education, and health agencies will not be able to handle increasing demands on their resources without coordinating and possibly extending their services to targeted communities.

It is important to remember that there are some significant differences between federal welfare reform provisions and those which have already been implemented under Massachusetts' welfare reform, aspects of which took effect in 1995 and 1996. For example, beginning December 1, 1996, Massachusetts TAFDC (the state version of TANF) benefits are terminated after 24 months during any five-year period for able-bodied adults with children over two years of age, while federal law permits a five-year limit. While Massachusetts recipients dropped from the rolls after two years might receive benefits again in another five-year period, once they have received sixty months of benefits, they will hit the federal limit and lose eligibility. On the other hand, there are many ameliorative measures under consideration in the state legislature, as detailed in a later section of this paper.

Department of Transitional Assistance statistics for the month of April, 1997, indicate that 483 Cambridge families are receiving TAFDC, with 70 of these currently subject to the mandatory work requirement. The 162 families with children from age two through school-age are subject to the 24-month limit but not the work requirement. Eighty-four families with children under age two will not become subject to the time limit until the child receiving TAFDC reaches the age of two, or a child not on the TAFDC grant reaches the age of three months. For comparison, the average Cambridge AFDC caseload was 950 in FY90 and 1,050 in

FY91. This represents more than a 50% caseload reduction over six years' time. The relative strength of the regional economy is certainly a factor, but since cases may be closed if a client fails to show up for an appointment at DTA or fails to provide various documentation, not all recipients who are dropped from the caseload have found work.

In Cambridge, 155 persons are receiving Emergency Assistance for Elderly , Disabled and Children (EAEDC) and 559 households receive Food Stamps only.

The City Council can provide essential leadership to enable coordination and planning among the community and government agencies and organizations that will deal directly with Cambridge residents suffering the impact of welfare reform. Several Cambridge and Somerville agencies have already begun initiatives to educate their clients and service providers in the community, and to plan strategies to deal effectively with the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act's fallout. The Council can take the initiative to coordinate public education efforts that will provide Cambridge residents with accurate information about the federal and state laws and their estimated effects, as well as point them to appropriate resources within the Cambridge community. The City Council has the opportunity and challenge of leading Cambridge's efforts to deal successfully with what may be a difficult transition to a new welfare system.

## AREAS FOR ACTION

The City should initiate action, or coordinate its efforts with non-profit agencies and state government in the following areas.

- **Provider Education.** Service providers need to know how best to respond to the changing needs of their clients. Somerbridge, a consortium of Cambridge and Somerville agencies, has offered several well-attended workshops for agencies, particularly focusing on immigrant benefits issues. Since many aspects of welfare reform affect children, educators should also be made aware of potential impacts, and should be prepared to recognize and respond appropriately to signs of increasing difficulties at home. Providers expect food pantry use to increase to compensate for the loss of food stamp benefits. Shrinking family incomes and the undercutting of the social safety net are likely to result in rising domestic violence. As availability of non-emergency medical care beyond emergencies plummets, public health needs are projected to grow.
- **Resident Education.** Cambridge residents need to know how they will be affected and what they can do to prepare themselves. Providers report that many clients know that something troubling is imminent, but they do not understand how the Act will affect them personally, and are not taking steps to prepare. Other clients, particularly legal immigrants or immigrant families in

which some of the children are United States citizens eligible for various services and benefits, are fearful of applying at this point. Somerbridge and the Cambridge School Department are discussing possible siting of evening workshops for the general public in school facilities. In addition to disseminating accurate information about welfare reform, these sessions could provide contact information for resources within the community, and facilitate access to legal advocates.

- **Technology.** Several of those interviewed suggested the coordination of city resources using technology. Computerized listings enabling residents to do self-referral to resources, or enabling agency staff to improve the quality of their Information and Referral would be one approach. Other database frameworks are available in which data for a specific client is entered, producing a listing of services for which the client is eligible. Early efforts by other organizations and communities to pursue such technologies have been costly and somewhat cumbersome, but these obstacles are likely to lessen with future development.
- **Jobs Strategies.** The complexities of moving adults who may have low job skills and educational attainment into jobs which pay a living wage should not be underestimated. Many training programs are targeted to welfare recipients, but it has proven difficult to attract those not currently subject to a work requirement. While the Department of Transitional Assistance has some longer-term training contracts, in many more instances welfare recipients subject to a work requirement (non-disabled, no preschool children, under the two-year assistance limit) are pressed to enter the workforce immediately or to participate in training programs of three months' duration or less. Many breadwinners moving off welfare face child care crises, unreliable transportation and other interruptions to their work lives which can be difficult to surmount with few resources. Currently, states receive financial incentives for moving recipients off the welfare rolls, but there is no provision for monitoring progress beyond case closing.
- **Community Service Programs.** These programs allow current recipients unable to find paying jobs to meet the work requirement. In 1996, the Cambridge City Council passed an order stating that the municipal government would not serve as a source of community service placements. This action was taken in opposition to the concept of "workfare," or the withholding of benefits unless community service was performed. The community service requirement for those who cannot find paying jobs is a reality today, however, and some municipalities are acting as placement sites and providing meaningful work experiences. The Cambridge City Council may wish to revisit its decision in some way.

- **Citizenship Classes.** The City offers these learning opportunities to non-citizens through the Community Learning Center and the Haitian Services Collaborative. Other community organizations offer citizenship classes as well.
- **Child Care.** A critical component of job training and community service programs, and of success on the job, child care is offered by the Department of Human Service Programs Child Care Division at four preschool sites and eight licensed after-school locations, serving about 300 children daily. The Child Care Resource Center administers a City-funded scholarship fund for after-school programs citywide. The Department also provides other after-school activities in many locations through the Community and Youth and Recreation Divisions. As more welfare recipients enter training or jobs, demand for child care slots is likely to rise, but good projections are not available, so planning among providers remains difficult.

## IMMEDIATE STEPS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL

There are several steps that the Council can take immediately:

- **Resident Education.** Coordinate a public education program in Cambridge Rindge and Latin School facilities, aimed not at service providers, but at Cambridge adults affected by the Act. Collaborate with Somerbridge and Cambridge School Department.
- **Task Force on Welfare Reform.** While Somerbridge has to date emphasized the effects of the new law on immigrants, many providers and decision makers are interested in bringing a similar level of activity to the more general welfare reform area. Acting as a Task Force, representatives of the organizations listed below could join front line knowledge of persons affected by welfare reform with policy development expertise. The following list of recommendations should not be viewed as exclusive.
  - \* Somerbridge Community Health Partnership
  - \* City of Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs
  - \* City of Cambridge Women's Commission
  - \* Cambridge/Somerville Office of the Department of Transitional Assistance
  - \* Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services
  - \* Centro Presente
  - \* Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
  - \* Haitian Services Collaborative
  - \* CEOC
  - \* Concilio Hispano
  - \* Cambridge Housing Authority
  - \* Cambridge Police Department

- \* Cambridge School Department
  - \* Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
  - \* Cambridge Community Services
  - \* Cambridge Mental Health Association
  - \* Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services
  - \* Cambridge Family & Children's Service
- **Information Gathering.** Formally request from the Department of Transitional Assistance more detailed statistical information on Cambridge households which will be affected by welfare. Formally request that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts undertake tracking studies to monitor former recipients who have left the welfare rolls.
  - **State Agency Plans.** Examine policies and plans of the Commonwealth to implement immigrant and welfare reform. Comment on proposed regulations, as they become available.
  - **State Legislation.** Continue to keep current on state legislative proposals, and consider endorsing selected measures.

## PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION CONCERNING WELFARE REFORM

While more than 100 bills have been introduced in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress in Washington, D.C. relating to immigrants, public benefits, border control and other immigration issues, the Massachusetts state legislature has also been active in pursuit of budget and other measures which would affect how welfare reform operates within the Commonwealth. The City Council should keep abreast of current state legislative bills which may fundamentally impact the Massachusetts benefits structure, and consider endorsing key legislation and joining with other municipalities through associations such as the Massachusetts Municipal Association in similar group action.

The following bills are at various stages of consideration in the Massachusetts state legislature.

### HOUSE

- House Bill 1909 – Act to Promote Affordable Child Care for Everyone.
- House Bill 2270 – Act to Establish Work Study for Very Low-Income Students with Families.
- House Bill 346 – Act to Make Welfare Better (passed by House; includes provisions for providing education and training for welfare recipients,

establishing legislative control of TAFDC; prohibits administrative cuts in welfare eligibility/benefits unless there is a shortfall in the appropriation and notice to the legislature).

- The House budget also includes \$40 million to create a temporary program providing cash assistance to immigrants losing federal SSI benefits. Immigrants who move to Massachusetts after May 1, 1997 would never be eligible for emergency cash assistance. Food banks would receive \$7 million in new funds.
- The House has secured funding and set an age limit of 19 years for the Children's Medical Security Plan. Children up to age 12 living below 200% of the federal poverty line are ensured Medicaid eligibility.
- The House has adopted an amendment (formerly House Bill 2687) to direct the Department of Transitional Assistance to count hours in approved education or training programs toward the 20 hour/week work requirement for TAFDC recipients, and to eliminate the "one course of study rule" (which prohibits recipients who have entered an approved course of study from transferring into another course, or from receiving other training later (Section 4401-1000).

#### SENATE

- Senate Bill 588 – Nutritional Assistance for Families, Elderly and Disabled (passed by Senate; provides \$10 million in food vouchers for legal immigrants).
- Assuring our Future/Feeding our Children Act (passed by Senate; \$1.3 million to augment federal reimbursement for summer feeding for children).
- The Senate budget also features a \$47 million permanent cash assistance program similar to EAEDC, but for immigrants only who are losing federal SSI benefits. There would be a 60-day waiting period before newly arrived applicants could receive cash assistance.
- Also included by the Senate is \$2 million in new monies for food banks.
- Senate Budget Outside Section 275 directs the Department of Transitional Assistance to perform an assessment on each new adult recipient as to literacy, educational level, work experience and other factors relevant to obtaining appropriate education and training leading to stable and adequate employment. The Department is further directed to encourage recipients to enroll in appropriate English as a Second Language, adult basic education, GED and other educational or skills training programs. No later than October 31, 1997, the Department would be required to submit a comprehensive analysis on the training and education provided, at a minimum, to recipients since December 1, 1996, and job placements (specifying wage rates, health and other benefits).

## CONCLUSION

It is essential that the City Council assume the leadership role in Cambridge's efforts to deal with the impact of federal and state welfare reform legislation. The Council should do everything possible to stay abreast of the issues because the impact of these measures will begin to be felt during the next few months, and then is expected to increase steadily. Although organizations exist within Cambridge that can ease the transition process and deal with problems that the Act is expected to cause, these agencies do not currently have programs in place to deal with the effects of the Act. Inter-agency communication can also be fostered by Council efforts. The City Council has the opportunity to help insure that the City's response is a successful one, despite the potentially difficult transition.

## **Appendix:**

### **The New Welfare Law – Summary**

**by David A. Super, Sharon Parrott, Susan Steinmetz, and Cindy Mann  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 13, 1996.**

The welfare conference agreement features deep cuts in basic programs for low-income children, families, and elderly and disabled people as well as fundamental structural changes in the AFDC program, the basic income support program for poor families with children. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the bill includes nearly \$55 billion in cuts in low-income programs over the next six years.

Nearly all of the \$55 billion in savings come from reductions in programs other than AFDC, with especially large reductions being made in the food stamp program, the Supplemental Security Income program for the elderly and disabled poor, and assistance to legal immigrants. Low-income disabled children, working poor families, and the elderly poor are among those whom the legislation will adversely affect. While the cuts come primarily from areas other than AFDC, many AFDC families also will be sharply affected in the years ahead as a result of the bill's sweeping changes in the structure of the AFDC program.

The bill converts AFDC to a block grant — called the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant — with essentially fixed funding. States will receive a fixed level of resources for income support and work programs based on what they spent on these programs in 1994, without regard to subsequent changes in the level of need in a state.

The bill provides some additional "contingency funds" if need increases in states, but the contingency funds are likely to prove inadequate if a recession occurs. Between 1990 and 1992 when unemployment climbed, federal AFDC expenditures rose \$6 billion above the amount expended in 1989. The bill's "contingency fund," however, includes only \$2 billion — or one-third as much. The contingency funds are likely to run out part way into the next recession.

Adding to the fiscal pressures likely to result from frozen federal funding are provisions in the bill that make it possible for states to withdraw substantial amounts of state resources from basic income support and work programs for poor families with children and to divert federal TANF block grant funds to other uses. The bill allows states to withdraw or divert approximately \$40 billion between 1997 and 2002 without such action affecting the level of federal block grant funds they receive. If state funding is reduced and federal funds are diverted to other purposes

to the extent the bill permits, basic benefits for needy families and resources for work programs will fall far short of need.

The new welfare legislation allows states to deny aid to any poor family or category of poor families. In addition, with some exceptions, the legislation prohibits states from using block grant funding to provide aid to families that have received assistance for at least five years. CBO estimates indicate that between 2.5 million and 3.5 million children could be affected by the bill's five-year time limit when it is fully implemented, even after the 20 percent hardship exemption is taken into account. Moreover, states can set time limits shorter than five years; the time limits — which apply to cash aid and work slots both — can be of as short a duration as a state wishes. If states adopt shorter time limits, as some are likely to do, the number of affected children will be substantially greater.

The bill also includes \$28 billion in food stamp reductions. When fully implemented, these reductions will cut food stamp benefits almost 20 percent, the equivalent of reducing the average food stamp benefit from its current level of 80 cents per person per meal to 66 cents per person per meal. These reductions will affect all food stamp recipients, including the working poor, the elderly and the disabled.

Included in the legislation is a particularly harsh food stamp provision that affects poor unemployed individuals between the ages of 18 and 50 who are not raising children. Under the bill, these individuals will generally be limited to just three months of food stamp receipt while unemployed in any three-year period. (Some of these individuals will be able to receive food stamps for six months while unemployed in a three-year period.) CBO estimates this provision will deny food stamp benefits to an average of one million people a month who are willing to work but cannot find a job and are not offered a workfare or training slot. Many of these individuals qualify for no other government benefit except food stamps. Denying them food stamps will leave them with no safety net at all.

The bill also eliminates most or all of the safety net for one other group — legal immigrants. The legislation makes most poor legal immigrants ineligible for most forms of assistance. In fact, 40 percent of the net savings in the bill are achieved by denying a wide range of benefits to immigrants, including poor immigrant children and poor immigrants who are very old or who have become disabled after entering the United States and can no longer work. All of the savings in the immigrant area come from denying benefits to legal — not illegal — immigrants. Illegal immigrants already are ineligible for most major means-tested entitlement benefits.

The overall size of the food stamp cuts, the structural changes in AFDC, and the reductions in benefits to legal immigrants remain largely unchanged from the provisions of the welfare bill that President Clinton vetoed in January (1996). In several areas, the new bill represents a step backward from the vetoed welfare bill

— for example, the reduction in food stamp benefits for unemployed adults not raising minor children is far more severe in the final bill than in the vetoed bill. The legal immigrant cuts also are slightly deeper in the final bill than in the vetoed version. Furthermore, the vetoed bill would have allowed states to use TANF block grant funds to provide non-cash assistance such as vouchers to impoverished families with children that hit the federally imposed five-year time limit but are unable to find employment in the private sector. The new bill, by contrast, prohibits states from using block grant funds to provide vouchers or other non-cash assistance to these families.

The bill does include some notable improvements over the vetoed version. It includes substantially increased resources for child care compared to the vetoed bill and a larger contingency fund. In addition, the reductions in SSI benefits for low-income disabled children, while still substantial, are considerably less sweeping than in the vetoed bill. In the food stamp area, the bill no longer gives states the option of "opting out" of the food stamp program and receiving a block grant in its place. The vetoed bill also would have placed a cap on food stamp expenditures, which would have forced additional, across-the-board food stamp benefit cuts if the expenditure cap otherwise would be breached. That cap has been dropped. Finally, the Act assures that children and parents who currently qualify for Medicaid based on their eligibility for AFDC will continue to be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of the changes states make in their welfare programs.

Overall, the bill is expected to have a similar effect on child poverty as the vetoed bill would have had. In July 1996, the Urban Institute released a study, based on conservative assumptions, showing that the welfare bill the House of Representatives approved that month would push 1.1 million children — and 2.6 million people overall — into poverty. Because the final bill is largely similar to the House bill, these estimates would change little if recalculated on the final legislation.

The Urban Institute study also found that the bill will make large numbers of families that already are poor still poorer. They will fall deeper into poverty, increasing the overall depth and severity of child poverty by 20 percent. (Technically, the bill will increase the "poverty gap" for families with children by more than \$4 billion, or 20 percent. The poverty gap is the measure of the total amount of income needed to lift all poor families just to the poverty line.) Finally, the Urban Institute researchers found that one in every five U.S. families with children — or 8.2 million families — would see their incomes fall an average of \$1,300 a year as a result of the bill.

Most of the children who will be pushed below the poverty line live in families with a working parent. Families in which the parents are unemployed throughout the year and receive only AFDC and food stamps typically have incomes that

already are well below the poverty line. Most of those families would be made still poorer by the bill.

The assumptions the Urban Institute employed are conservative. As a result, the study is more likely to underestimate than overestimate the extent to which the bill increases the number of children living in poverty and makes already-poor children still poorer. The analysis is based on current economic conditions; if the country or a region were to suffer a recession, the impact of the bill on poverty would be larger. In addition, the Urban Institute assumed all states would adopt a five-year time limit on assistance, the maximum duration the bill allows. A number of states are planning to institute shorter time limits. The Urban Institute researchers also assumed that no state would withdraw state resources from welfare programs in response to the provisions allowing them to do so. This also is likely to prove too sanguine a forecast. The researchers noted, in releasing their study, that their assumptions were optimistic.



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Councillor Francis H. Duehay  
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617-547-0271  
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June 12, 1997

The Honorable, The Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Hall  
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Colleagues:

I am forwarding the attached report on **WELFARE REFORM AND CAMBRIDGE** for your information and action. This report was prepared by Parul Singh, a Harvard college student intern working with me this winter and spring. Ms. Singh has just completed her sophomore year. She is working this summer as an intern in the office of Congressman Martin Meehan and will be spending next year working in London during the first semester and in South Africa during the second semester.

I believe the suggestions and steps recommended for Council consideration are timely. Although local government did not ask for welfare to be reformed, we are inescapably involved because the consequences of this Act affect a number of our residents. The city should actively contribute its own ideas, monitor what the state is doing and determine how effectively its new programs are working. The city should make suggestions as necessary and it should involve agencies, who already serve this clientele and possess much valuable information, in formulating its recommendations.

As in other policy areas, Washington has determined that states and local governments should assume new responsibilities. While not all of us agree with these changes, it is incumbent on this local government, I believe, to shape local resources as best we can to maximize the likelihood that our residents are able to utilize fully their human potential.

One way to start is to ask the City Manager to appoint a new Task Force on Welfare Reform, one of the author's principal recommendations. My suggestion is and I shall move that we ask the City Manager to appoint this Task Force for a two year period.

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

With regard to the other recommended Council steps, I shall move that:

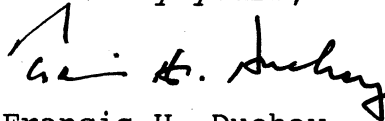
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3. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Task Force to examine and monitor the policies and plans of the Commonwealth with regard to immigrant policy and welfare reform, comment on proposed regulations as they become available, and recommend to the City Manager and the City Council any initiatives that in their judgment need to be made to the Commonwealth.

4. The City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Task Force to monitor pending state legislation and to recommend to him and the City Council endorsements or amendments need in their judgment to be made to the legislative and executive branches.

Sincerely yours,



Francis H. Duehay

Communications and Reports from City S-381  
Officers #1

A communication was received from  
D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk, transmitting  
a letter from Councillor Francis H. Duehay  
together with a copy of a report on Welfare  
Reform and Cambridge.

In City Council June 16, 1997

*Report accepted.*

*Order adopted,*

*Placed on file.*