



City of Cambridge

5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 10, 1995

MAYOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR MYERS
 VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Governor Weld has proposed several substantial cuts to the Emergency Assistance Program, a state/federal program which provides essential shelter and homeless prevention benefits to very poor families; and

WHEREAS: These cuts include

- * Limiting access to emergency shelter to families whose homelessness is a direct result of natural disaster, domestic violence, "sheriff's eviction", and condemnation;
- * Ending homelessness prevention benefits for tenants of public and/or subsidized housing;
- * Ending homelessness prevention benefits for working poor families whose incomes are under \$13,000 per year (for a family of three);

and

WHEREAS: According to the Department of Public Welfare's FY95 Spending Plan, approximately 65% of the homeless families currently sheltered by the Commonwealth are homeless for reasons other than those Governor Weld proposes to allow. These reasons include

- * Families living in apartments with serious health and safety hazards as verified by the Department of Public Welfare;
- * Families living in situations where the children are in immediate danger, as verified by the Department of Public Welfare;
- * Families who have "doubled up" with friends or relatives and where the host has told them to leave;
- * Families who left their apartment when their landlord told them to, without going to court first;

and

WHEREAS: Almost every shelter bed in the Commonwealth is funded through the Emergency Assistance budget line item, and thus Governor Weld's change would render almost all families who do not meet the proposed eligibility criteria without possibility of state or federal aid; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council urges the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Charles Flaherty, and the Chairperson of the House Ways and Means Committee, Thomas Finneran, to support budget language that ensures that families facing homelessness, as currently verified by the Department of Public Welfare and its agents, be provided with emergency shelter.

In City Council April 10, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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Consent Order #5

R-329

Mayor Reeves re: Cut to the Emergency Assistance Program.

Bon Dukey Galliciano Myers
Russell Sullivan Guantafila

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In City Council April 10, 1995

Order adopted