



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

1493 CAMBRIDGE STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 498-1500

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

David B. O'Connor
Director

February 6, 1991

Mr. Robert Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Healy:

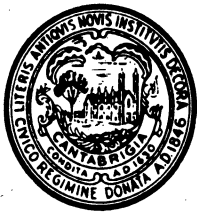
I am writing in response to the order of the City Council inquiring as to any special precautions are being taken in relation to the war and as to the status of our warning system.

The old air raid siren system installed in the early 1960's had deteriorated badly due to lack of maintenance. In 1984 only two of the nine sirens were functioning and one of the two was working on half power. At that time, the leased telephone lines connected to the non-functioning sirens were disconnected. By November of 1987, all of the sirens had ceased to function and all leased lines were disconnected.

When the city was soliciting bids for a cable television company, we insisted that the cable vendor provide an emergency override system at no cost to the city. The implementation of this system took longer than anyone expected. When hostilities commenced, we contacted the cable company again and the system was activated and the access codes were in the possession of city officials as of January 25, 1991. This emergency override system permits the city to cut into the cable television system, blacking out the screen image, and put a live voice message over all channels on the cable system. This live voice message could be followed up with further messages on the community access channels. During any warning message, viewers will be asked to contact neighbors who may not have cable or who may have their television shut off.

Very truly yours,

David B. O'Connor



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300

FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

February 11, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 26, regarding the status of our warning system as it relates to the Persian Gulf Crisis, received from David B. O'Connor, Director of Emergency Management.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA # 4 S-274

Awaiting Report Item No. 26, regarding
status of our warning system as it
relates to the Persian Gulf Crisis.

In City Council,

February 11, 1991

Placed on file