



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT
Chief of Department

THE REPORT on Channel 7 focused on family day care homes, not to be confused with group day care centers.

The family day care homes pertains to any private residence which, on a regular bases, receives for temporary care during part of the day, children under 7 years of age, or children under 16 years of age with special needs. The total number of children allowed in these private residences can not exceed 6 children inclusive of children that already reside there. 102 CMR 800.

The Channel 7 report showed 60 Wadsworth Street in its report but they reported this as a family day care, but in fact it is a group day care center of 45 children of which we are aware of.

The group day care centers number approximately 70 in the City of Cambridge and we have worked closely with the Office of Children to keep the list up to date since 1982. The Fire Department has implemented even though there was no requirement, a quarterly inspection of all group day care centers in the city, and in addition we were able to get 100 percent compliance with the smoke detector and fire alarms in these occupancies. We worked closely with these centers on their evacuation plans in updating and refining them and then conducting drills. The Cambridge Fire Department, has the most comprehensive program for group day care centers in the state.

The family day care homes are another story. These occupancies are in private houses and are limited in number and again, as in the case in

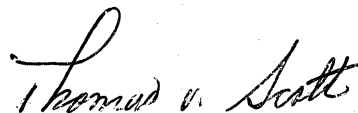
group day care centers, the Office of Children has no requirement to notify us that these exist or where they are, and in these cases, are reluctant to give us information.

As a result of the Prescott Street fire, which in fact was a family day care home, we notified, by letter, the Office for Children asking for cooperation in identifying these private residence homes. In addition, we asked cooperation in developing a joint program of education for the operation of these particular type occupancies. The Office for Children responded and in fact a meeting was held on April 4, 1990, at the Office for Children and arrangement to give the Cambridge Fire Department a list of these occupancies and also to keep that list updated on a monthly basis. The Office will work with the Fire Department in its education program.

The question of the change in the State Building Code pertaining to group day care centers. It addresses I-2 occupancies that is: Children 2 years 9 months or younger who where formerly relocated to the first floor and basement of a building to the second and third floors in certain constructed and fully sprinkled buildings.

In the case of children over 2 years 9 months, they can occupy a building of certain construction and fully sprinkled to the seventh floor formerly they were relocated to first and second floors.

Again, these laws do no pertain to family day care homes.



Thomas V. Scott, Chief



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Date December 28, 1990

From Joseph J. Cellucci
Building Commissioner

Reference

Subject City Council Order #4, 3/26/90.
Family Day Care

Please be advised that the only day care centers inspected by Inspectional Services Department are those which required inspections by Massachusetts State Building, Article 434, and which are licensed by the office of children. (See attached sheet).

Presently, there are no laws which require this department to inspect family day care in formes. 102 CMR 8 office of children, does not pertain to Inspectional Services Department.

If the Council wishes to adopt ordinances pertaining to this matter, I would strongly suggest that the matter be referred to the Law Department for their evaluation in order to avoid any possible conflict between State statutes and City Ordinances.

35.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

January 7, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 14, regarding family day care centers in Cambridge, please find attached a response from Thomas Scott, Chief of Fire, as well as Joseph Cellucci, Commissioner of Inspectional Services, concerning this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachments

Agenda # 35

S-68
Awaiting Répprt Item Number 14 regarding
family day care centers in Cambridge.

In City Council,

January 7, 1991

Placed on file