



MASSACHUSETTS NURSES ASSOCIATION

July 2, 1998

The Honorable Francis H. Duehay
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Duehay and Members of the City Council,

I am writing to clarify my testimony at the Cambridge City Council on June 30.

The Massachusetts Nurses Association supports the rebuilding of Neville Manor as a nursing home. We are well aware of the difficulties the present facility imposes on the patients and their families and on the nurses who care for them. We take no position on the plan for adding assisted living units at the site.

Our concerns are with the "good faith" framework of the home rule petition, "An Act Relative to the Redevelopment of the Mayor Michael J. Neville Manor Nursing Home." These concerns grow out of our recent experience in a dispute with the Cambridge Public Health Commission while negotiating a first contract with the nurses at Somerville Hospital. In that dispute, the employer has walked away from the bargaining table after eight months of negotiations, raised a question about jurisdiction, in violation of a written agreement, and now refuses to negotiate.

Steps need to be taken to re-affirm the employer's desire to bargain in "good faith" before we can support a home rule petition that rests so heavily on "good faith."

Thank you for your attention to this matter and the opportunity to clarify my testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Roslyn L. Feldberg, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Labor Relations

RLF/pb

Consent Communication #37

5255

A communication was received from
Roslyn L. Feldberg, Ph.D, Asscoaite
Director, Massachusetts Nurses
Association, transmitng support for the
rebuilding of Neville Manor as a nursing
home.

In City Council July 27, 1998

PLACED ON FILE