



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 1980

ORDERED:

That \$620,000 is appropriated for additional communication equipment for the Cambridge Police Department, and to raise this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow \$620,000 under General Laws c.44, s.7(9), as amended, and to issue bonds or notes to be payable within five (5) years from their dates.

In City Council September 29, 1980.

Adopted by a ye and nay vote:- Yeas 7; Nays 0; Absent 2.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

Sept 29 1980

5 Calendar

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane			✓	
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy	✓			
Ms. Sandra Graham			✓	
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			

7 0 2

Handwritten signature/initials



City of Cambridge

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Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on September 8, 1980 and on or after September 22, 1980 the question comes on adoption.

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.



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ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

City of Cambridge

Agenda # 5 appropriation of \$620,000 to the ^{MASSACHUSETTS} Public Investment Fund for equip- In City Council Sept. 8 198 0
ment in the Police Dept.

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane			✓	
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy			✓	
Ms. Sandra Graham			✓	
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			

6 0 3



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 1980

ORDERED:

That \$620,000 is appropriated for additional equipment for the Police Department and that to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow \$620,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 7 (9), as amended.

The City and its Police Department are requesting the replacement of aging police communications and dispatching equipment. The problems with the present system and the major features of a planned replacement system are summarized below.

A. PROBLEMS IN POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

The Cambridge Police radio communications and dispatching system has deteriorated to the point where it soon may pose hazards to both citizens and patrol officers. The system is old and in a poor state of repair, with the result that many of the radios and other pieces of communications equipment do not work properly.

One-third of the portable radios used by patrolmen and detectives are more than 8 years old (with the overall average at 6.7 years). Mobile radios in police vehicles average twelve years in age. Because of the heavy 24-hour use of these radios, past problems in maintenance, and a non-existent budget for radio replacement; the following major problems are evident:

1. Many radios experience broken, unintelligible reception and transmission.
2. There is a high frequency of repair per radio.
3. There is little or no "in-building" coverage, especially for those port-

ables whose power has dropped below 200 milliwatts.

4. Many radios don't operate on Channel 2, thus overcrowding Channel 1.
5. The number of working units that can be kept in minimal operating condition has dropped to the point where some officers and vehicles have no radio communications.

No replacement radios have been bought in over 5 years; primarily because the City has been anticipating federal funds. Federal funds are no longer available to assist in radio system replacement and all other non-city funding sources have been explored with no possibility of funding from outside sources.

With the present system, police officers and dispatchers often find themselves with undependable or non-functioning equipment which causes errors in important messages, takes police officers off the streets for repairs and most importantly, endangers emergency response to officers or citizens in trouble.

B. IMPROVING POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

An appropriation and bond issue is needed to finance replacement communications and dispatching equipment. A Police Task Force, working with various city agencies, has developed a detailed plan for the new

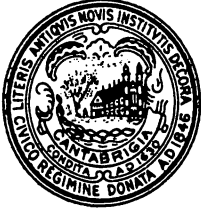
system in conjunction with a professional telecommunications engineering firm, and architect. The new system is planned to provide direct unit-to-unit communications between any Cambridge police unit and any other unit operating within the BAPERN system (inside Route 128).

The major features of the new system are:

1. An increase in the number of portables so that every on-duty uniformed officer has one.
2. Interface (through BAPERN) with other police units in or near Cambridge including both University departments, the MDC, Somerville, Boston, Arlington, and Belmont.
3. Total in-building and in-tunnel communications (the latter through use of MBTA repeaters).
4. A much-improved (computer-assisted) dispatching and call receiving system that can instantly tell dispatchers, police officers and commanders the status of all units and working calls and the disposition of all past calls for service by address, date, type of call and other parameters.

5. Reliable, consistently high-quality communications.
6. Emergency signal and ID features.

The improvements in equipment financed by the City will complement changes in physical plant, personnel and procedures already undertaken by the police department in the past twelve months. These changes include: the construction of a new 911 Communications Center; the assignment of permanent, trained personnel to communications; the unification of communications leadership under a Communications Commander (Sergeant James McDevitt), and the development of standardized procedures for efficiently handling various calls for service and complaints. In addition, the Department has improved its radio maintenance support so that repairs are less expensive, less time consuming, and more proficiently done than previously.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

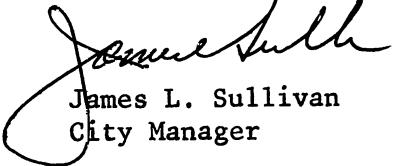
September 8, 1980

To the Honorable, the City Council:

The attached appropriation of \$620,000 to the Public Investment Fund is to be used to replace the outdated communication and dispatching equipment of the Police Department. The accompanying memo clearly outlines the reasons for the new equipment.

I strongly urge passage of this order so that the safety needs of our citizens are met.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS

JLS/mbf
Encs.

Agenda # 5

F-352

Appropriation of \$620,000 to the Public
Investment Fund for equipment for the
Police Dept.

9/8/1980

Passed to Second
Reading

Public's Sept 11, 1980

In City Council,

Sept. 8, 1980

For Public Council

6-0-3