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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

November 6, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-102, regarding a report on how imposing program fees has affected participation at youth centers throughout the City, Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold reports the following:

As reported in a response submitted to the City Council in September, the Department of Human Services has begun implementation of recommendations from the 1998/1999 assessment of the City's youth center programs. One significant recommendation from the assessment was that the programs and activities offered to the youngest youth center members, 9-13 year olds, should be offered as an enrolled program during afternoon hours, a significant departure from the historic drop-in model. After several months of program planning and development, including neighborhood based meetings with parents, the newly developed program began in September. The program, the Youth Leadership Program, is offered in three twelve-week sessions and the fee for each session is \$20. If more than one youth is enrolled from a family, a reduced rate is applied to the additional enrollees. Individualized payment plans are developed on an as-requested basis. The fee for the previous drop-in program had been an annual membership fee of \$5.

Initial enrollment numbers for the fall term indicate a high level of interest and participation from families of youth ages 9-13. Currently, 175 pre-teens are enrolled across the five centers. This number compares favorably to the number of pre-teens participating in the drop-in program a year ago. Outreach continues to the few families whose children previously participated in the drop-in and who have not enrolled in the Youth Leadership Program.

Programs and activities for older youth ages 14-18 continue to be offered on a drop-in basis in the evenings. Currently in process is the development of a new program component for this age group, The Leaders in Action Program. This program will provide an opportunity for a small number of older youth from each center to participate in a paid internship program developed collaboratively with the Office of Workforce Development. The annual fee for participating in the older teen drop-in programs is \$20. As requested, a report will be submitted to in March, 2001 with summary information from the first term of the Youth Leadership Program.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Communication from Robert W. Healy,
City Manager, relative to Awaiting
Report Item Number 00-102, regarding
a report on how imposing program
fees has affected participation at
youth centers throughout the city.

In City Council November 6, 2000

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