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PEACE BE UNTO YOU (4/27/15)

HELLO EVERYBODY,

MY PUBLIC COMMENT ARE CITY MANAGERS AGENDA ITEM # 7, AND CALENDAR UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEM# 5, ANY OTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT PERTAINS TO THE HOMELESS OR LOW INCOME SECTOR.

IF NOT ALREADY INCLUDED, THE CITYWIDE PLANNING PROCESS (MASTER PLAN) NEXT STEP AND TIME LINE, SOCIAL PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE, AN EVIDENCE BASED POVERTY STRATEGY PLAN, THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE, THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IS COMMITTED TO ENDING POVERTY. IN THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL PLANNING, IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, AND LOCAL FOUNDATIONS, WILL STRIVE FOR THE GOALS IN THE POVERTY STRATEGY PLAN, AND COORDINATE WITH THE CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANS AND GOALS. THE PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE THE STRIDES AND RECOMMENDATIONS, OF CAMBRIDGE'S TEN YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS.

ALSO, THE CITYWIDE PLANNING PROCESS SHOULD MIRROR GOALS OF THE CONSOLIDATED AND ACTION PLANS, WITH THE TEN YEAR PLAN BLUE PRINT TO END HOMELESSNESS GOALS, AND ALIGN THIS PLAN, WITH THE PLAN OF THE CAMBRIDGE CONTINUUM OF CARE'S PLAN OF ACTION, TO ATTACK THE ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS, AND THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION.

THE FOUNDRY BUILDING IS AN EXISTING STRUCTURE THAT CAN BE RENOVATED AND REHABILITATED, TO SERVE AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SUITABLE TO ASSIST OUR HOMELESSNESS SECTOR. TACKLING POVERTY IN THIS WAY WILL BECOME ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS IN REDUCING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CAMBRIDGE'S HOMELESS SUBPOPULATION.

THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE IS STILL IN CONTROL OF THE FOUNDRY BUILDING PROPERTIES, ETC., THEREFORE, IT SHOULD ASSIGN OR DONATE, THE FOUNDRY BUILDING TO ONE OF ITS MUNICIPAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HUMAN SERVICES OR OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ETC., AND ALLOW IT TO TAKE CHARGE OF MAKING FOUNDRY BUILDING PROPERTIES SUITABLE FOR SERVING THE HOMELESS POPULATION. THANK YOU.

YOURS IN PEACE,

MR. HASSON J. RASHID

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U.S. Surgeon General Identifies Health Equity as a Civil Rights Issue

Last week, the new U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, was officially installed and set the tone for his administration by stating that “health equity is a civil rights issue.” During his remarks, he acknowledged that while the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has expanded coverage for millions of Americans — we as a nation are still facing rising rates of diabetes, cancer, and other preventable diseases. He added, “Today in America, who you are, where you come from and whom you love plays too big a role in determining your health. Being poor — which affects one in five children — is too great a factor in determining who is healthy and who is not,” and asserted that these harsh realities can have long-term impacts on the education system, the U.S. workforce, and the nation’s economy