January 13, 2017

Louis DePasquale
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Manager DePasquale,

I am pleased to submit the Cambridge Public Health Department’s annual report to the City of Cambridge.

The department’s major accomplishment for 2016 was completing Year 1 strategies of the City of Cambridge Community Health Improvement Plan, which is setting the city’s health agenda through 2020. The enclosed report describes Cambridge’s progress in meeting the objectives of the plan’s four identified priority areas: mental health and substance abuse; violence; healthy, safe, and affordable housing; and healthy eating and active living. In addition to highlighting Year 1 achievements, the report also explains the challenges encountered in trying to address these complex issues at the local level.

Other notable accomplishments in 2016:

- **National Accreditation:** The department’s application for national accreditation was officially accepted by the Public Health Accreditation Board, a milestone in the journey to become one of the first accredited health departments in the Commonwealth.
- **Mumps Outbreak:** In response to the Harvard mumps outbreak, epidemiology and nursing staff interviewed over 50 people with suspected or confirmed mumps, and over 150 of their close contacts.
- **Opioid Crisis:** The department continued to provide timely information to the community about opioid prevention, intervention, and treatment, as well as collect and analyze local overdose data.
- **Social Media:** The health department’s newly launched Twitter account (@Cambhealth) promoted city events and shared information on topics ranging from Zika virus and extreme weather to health equity and civic unity.
- **Let’s Move! Cambridge** earned a #1 ranking in preventing childhood obesity from Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties, part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s campaign to ensure that kids can grow up healthy.

The department continued providing valuable services to the community, which included:

- Providing flu shots to over 800 people at sites throughout the city.
- Following up on over 335 communicable disease reports.
- Handling over 1,900 tuberculosis patient visits at CHA Cambridge Hospital.
- Screening over 2,900 elementary school children for dental caries.
- Handling over 44,000 student visits for illness, injury, and other care at the Cambridge Public Schools.
- Issuing over 1,000 licenses and permits.
The Cambridge Public Health Department maintained a national presence through the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in which we are honored to have Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, Chief Public Health Officer, as President.

Thank you for your continued support of the Cambridge Health Alliance and the Cambridge Public Health Department.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. Wardell
Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge

cc: Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH
    Chief Public Health Officer