

To: City Clerk, Margaret Drury

Pls put this on
communications list
of City Council

June 8

Adriane Bishko

Adriane J. Bishko

1619 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02138

(617) 868-5123

May 14, 1998

Ms. Kathy Spiegelman
Associate Vice President
Harvard Planning and Real Estate
1350 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 912
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Ms. Spiegelman,

It has come to my attention that the rents/operating cost that Harvard University charges the small shops along Mass Avenue between 1609-1613 (Three Aces Pizza, Central Barber Shop, Crimson Cleaners and Looks) have just been raised over 50 percent. That is very disheartening for many of us in the community.

All of these shops fulfill an important role, not only to the neighborhood, but to Harvard students and staff as well. When I recently spoke to Stamadis at Three Aces, he said that over 60 percent of his clientele are Harvard students, many of whom attend the Law School. While all of these shops serve the community in their own special way, Three Aces plays a pivotal role in keeping the neighborhood safe. Because it's open until midnight it increases foot traffic along Massachusetts Avenue, benefiting both local residents such as myself and Harvard / Lesley students studying late into the night.

What saddens me most is that Harvard University has gone back on its word. I remember sitting at an Agassiz Neighborhood meeting a couple years ago and listening to you reassure us that these small businesses, some in this same location for over 30 years, would be allowed to remain at **affordable rents** until such time as Harvard erected a new building on that site.

It is not only unfortunate that Harvard has gone back on its word, but equally unfortunate that Harvard is taking advantage of small shop owners in this way. If they are forced out now, it's not only the end of their business but the end of an era for our neighborhood. As a neighbor and local property owner, I implore you to reconsider this drastic step.

Sincerely,

Adriane Bishko

Adriane Bishko

cc: Agassiz Neighborhood Council, Three Aces Pizza, Crimson Cleaners, Central Barber Shop, Looks, Kathy Born

RECEIVED
98 JUN -3 PM 1:58
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
Clerk

Consent Communication #4

S-425

A communicationw as received from
Adriane Bishko, transmitting
a letter regarding the rents/operating
costs that Harvard University charges
the small shops along Massachusetts
Avenue between 1609-1613.

In City Council June 8, 1998

Referred to the City Manager