



Division
of
Comparative
Medicine

Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology
Building 43
37 Vassar Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts
02139
617/253-1757

April 26, 1982

Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci
Office of the Mayor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mayor Vellucci:

Please let me draw your attention to the inappropriate behavior of Ms. Ginger Gay in her official capacity in the Animal Commission, City of Cambridge. Ms. Gay recently harangued an employee of the Division of Comparative Medicine, M.I.T., Ms. Kathy Harris, while Ms. Harris was applying for a dog license. The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) carries the Institute-wide responsibility of assuring the humaneness of animal research. Ms. Gay would probably contend that "the humaneness of animal research" is a contradiction in terms, but neither this letter, nor the captive audience of a public official is the appropriate forum for addressing this issue. Ms. Gay would disagree on this point also.

Ms. Gay began by invectively asking Ms. Harris, who is an administrative assistant, how she could justify working for DCM. An unsolicited tirade then followed which ranged through several "moot" points including debarked dogs, electrode-implanted cats, saccharin and other studies in mice and rats, and sensory cues of sexual excitation in the cat. To paraphrase Ms. Gay, all animal experimentation is off the wall, and to quote Ms. Gay directly, according to Ms. Harris, "We are going to get you, M.I.T." "We" was used equivocally without antecedent in this circumstance. Does Ms. Gay represent the official opinion of the City of Cambridge on these issues? If she does not, does the Mayor's Office encourage or condone city employees who vituperatively espouse their private opinions at the expense of the city and Cambridge citizens? Please consider these questions and reply at your convenience. I have spoken to Ms. Gay about these issues and hope you will do the same. As an animal advocate and concerned citizen I await your response.

Sincerely,

Christian E. Newcomer
Christian E. Newcomer, VMD
Clinical Veterinarian

CEN/bb

cc: Ms. Ginger Gay

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

May 24 1982

Motion by Councilor Graham to refer Animal Commission to City Manager

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Daniel J. Clinton		✓		
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy			✓	
Mr. Francis H. Duehay		✓		
Ms. Sandra Graham	✓			
Mr. Leonard J. Russell		✓		
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Vellucci		✓		

4 4 1

Failed to adopt



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

May 19, 1982

Christian E. Newcomer, VMD
Division of Comparative Medicine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Building 45
37 Vassar Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

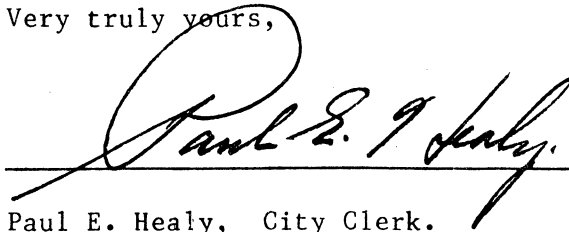
Dear Dr. Newcomer:

Please be advised that the City Council has re-scheduled the public hearing you requested in connection with the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission. Said hearing, which had been scheduled for Monday, May 10, 1982 and was postponed, has been subsequently re-scheduled for Monday, May 24, 1982 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the City Council hearing schedule for that date. If you have any further questions, please contact this office.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

Enclosure

City of Cambridge

CITY COUNCIL HEARING SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 23, 1982

9:30 A. M.

The Finance Committee of the City Council will meet to discuss the Fiscal Year 1982-1983 budget for Health and Hospitals, Women's Comm., Library Dept., Veteran's Benefits, Animal Commission, the School Dept., the Public Investment Program and the General Financing Plan. (City Council Chamber)

Monday, May 24, 1982

5:00 P. M.

Regular City Council Meeting. (City Council Chamber)

6:00 P. M.

The City Council has scheduled a public hearing to discuss a "citizen's complaint" with regard to the office of the Cambridge Animal Commission (Ginger Gay, Director of the Animal Commission has been invited to attend). (City Council Chamber)

7:00 P. M.

The City Council has scheduled a public hearing in answer to the request of David Hoicka, to discuss automobile towing and street cleaning procedures in Cambridge. (City Council Chamber)

Wednesday, May 26, 1982

5:30 P. M.

The Committee on Claims will meet to discuss pending claims against the City. (Walnut Room)

Wednesday, June 2, 1982

5:30 P. M.

The Finance Committee of the City Council will meet to discuss the Fiscal Year 1982-1983 budget for Human Resource Development. (City Council Chamber)

Thursday, June 3, 1982

5:30 P. M.

The Committee on Ordinances will meet to discuss the following:

A proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to add a new section entitled "Flood Plain Overlay District". (City Council Chamber)



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Ginger Gay, Director
Cambridge Animal Commission

Date May 19, 1982

From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

Reference

Subject Public hearing scheduled for May 24, 1982 at
6:00 p.m.

Please be advised that the City Council has re-scheduled the public hearing requested by Christian E. Newcomer, VMD, in connection with your office. Said hearing, which had been scheduled for Monday, May 10, 1982 and was postponed, has been subsequently re-scheduled for Monday, May 24, 1982 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the City Council hearing schedule for that date. Your presence is hereby requested at this time.

PEH/mh

Enclosure

City of Cambridge

CITY COUNCIL HEARING SCHEDULE

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City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That a public hearing be held in the City Council Chamber on Monday, May 10, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a "citizen complaint" regarding the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission.

In City Council, May 3, 1982.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED:

7:00 P.M.
That a public hearing be held in the City Council Chamber on Monday, May 10, 1982 at ~~6:30~~ ^{7:00} p.m. for the purpose of discussing a "citizen complaint" regarding the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission.

Order # 3

Mayor Vellucci order re: Scheduling of a public hearing for May 10, 1982 at ~~7:00~~ 7:00 p.m. to discuss a citizen complaint regarding the Animal Control Commission.

*Petitioner Dr. Christian Newcomer was notified
of hearing 5/5/82
Ginger Gay notified 5/6/82 mch*

In City Council,

May 3, 1982

5/3/1982

*MV
9 Adopted*



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Ginger Gay, Animal Commission
From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk *PEH*
Subject Public hearing scheduled for May 10, 1982
at 7:00 p.m.

Date May 5, 1982

Reference

Please be advised that the City Council is in receipt of a communication dated April 26, 1982 from Christian E. Newcomer, VMD, with regard to the office of the Animal Control Commission.

Pursuant to that communication, the City Council adopted an order at its regular meeting held on May 3, 1982, scheduling a public hearing to discuss this matter more fully. Said hearing to be held on Monday, May 10, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. Your presence is requested at this time.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

PEH/mh

Enclosure



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That a public hearing be held in the City Council Chamber on Monday, May 10, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a "citizen complaint" regarding the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission.

In City Council May 3, 1982.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

May 5, 1982

Christian E. Newcomer, VMD
Division of Comparative Medicine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Building 45
37 Vassar Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

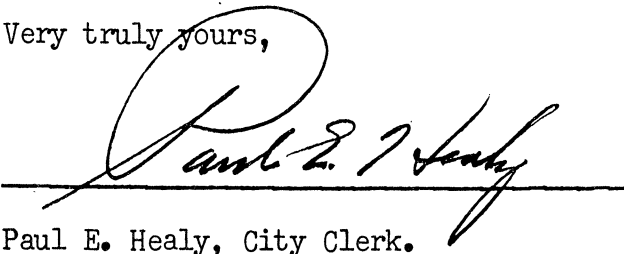
Dear Dr. Newcomer:

Please be advised that the City Council is in receipt of your communication dated April 26, 1982, with regard to the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission.

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of an order adopted by the City Council at its meeting of May 3, 1982, scheduling a public hearing pursuant to this matter. Said hearing to be held on Monday, May 10, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall. Your presence is invited at this time.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

Enclosure

cc: Ginger Gay, Animal Commission



City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 3, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED:

That a public hearing be held in the City Council Chamber on Monday, May 10, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a "citizen complaint" regarding the office of the Cambridge Animal Control Commission.

In City Council May 3, 1982.

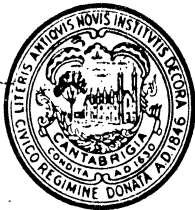
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL
57 INMAN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
498-9041

April 27, 1982

GINGER GAY
Director

CAPTAIN JOSEPH CUSACK
Cambridge Police Department
Assistant Director

KEVIN DOHERTY
Health and Hospitals

Members:

JOHN CORCORAN
ELLEN KIRCHHEIMER
MICHAEL KLEIN
PAUL PURCELL

Animal Control Officers:

JOHN MANUEL
ARLENE McDONALD

Mayor Alfred Vellucci
City Hall

Dear Mayor Vellucci:

I am in receipt of a letter from Christian Newcomer, VMD today.

The thrust of my 5-7 minute conversation was the use of pound animals for research. Ms. Harris had occasion to exit gracefully at several points, but remained as the phone rang, someone came in for a license, etc. She moved over to the edge of the counter and continued talking to me. She made comments as our conversation progressed "I guess I hadn't given it much thought." "I don't think the dog had rabies" that they were bleeding and suddenly attacked a technician. Upon conclusion of our conversation she went out the door and turned and said "Thank you very much."

I take my duty as a public servant very seriously.

I would like to have a hearing on this matter. The quotes that Christian Newcomer attributes to me are not so, and I will testify to this under oath if required.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ginger Gay
Director

cc: Christian E. Newcomer, VMD
MIT, Division of Comparative Medicine
Katherine Harris, 14 Laurel Street, Cambridge
Paul Gray, President, MIT

S-441

Comm. from Mayor Vellucci transmitting comm.
from Ginger Gay, Director, the Animal Commis-
sion Re: request of Christian Newcomer, VMD
for a hearing before the Council to discuss
a conversation which occurred between Ms. Gay
and Ms. Harris on the use of pound animals in
research.

5/24/82 The
Petitioner withdrew
her request for the
hearing after much
discussion -

Ginger Gay, Animal Commission +
Dr. Christian Newcomer notified of
hearing 5/20/82 mlh

In City Council,

May 17, 1982

Referred to the
Hearing
- May 24, 1982 -
AT
- 6 PM -