



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
1986 MAY 11 AM 8:57
CAMBRIDGE MA.
494-4100

BILL SCHMIDT, Chairman
Cambridge
THOMAS J. LARKIN, Bedford
MICHAEL E. McLAUGHLIN, Lowell

40 THORNDIKE STREET
EAST CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

May 5, 1986

ATTN: CITIES AND TOWNS IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY
Mayors, Board of Selectmen, City Councillors

Dear Cambridge City Councillors:

The constraints of Proposition 2 1/2. We all feel them. From our schools, to our roads, to the repair of our public buildings. We are all suffering because we do not have the proper funding to maintain many of our public services.

We are all facing the battle to limit taxes, yet increase or maintain services. When we consider what monies are available to us for use, the options are numbered. But this year we have a Commonwealth that is boasting a surplus of funds. And as a city or town in Middlesex County, these funds belong to you.

Middlesex County is willing to lead the lobbying effort with the Governor and the State Legislature to obtain monies that are owed to the county; Specifically, **\$26 million** in back court rentals which have accumulated since 1979. How does this relate to cities and towns? Our plan is to obtain \$10 million for the county stabilization fund, for capital facility improvements, and deliver the remaining \$16 million to municipalities. This money would be sent back to the cities and towns as a one-time bonus, and would clearly help to offset the loss of revenue sharing and the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2.

The issue of back court rentals owed to the county is not new to the commonwealth. It is acknowledged that these are funds due the county. What is new is that the state this year has a means of paying these back rents.

By working together to obtain these funds, we can develop appropriate legislation to direct these funds back to cities and towns. And like any other municipality in the state feeling the pinch, you have a vested interest in lobbying for this healthy bonus.

It is our hope that if you are interested in our proposition, that you will call the Middlesex County Program Department at 494-4100, and ask for Nancy Kuchar. We will be setting up a meeting to draft the appropriate legislation, and we need your help.

Sincerely,

Bill Schmidt, Chairman
Michael E. McLaughlin
Thomas J. Larkin
MIDDLESEX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

5.

S-361

Comm. from the Middlesex County Commissioners
Re: starting a lobbying effort with the
Governor & State Legislature for collection
of monies owed to the county, particularly
for back court rentals.

In City Council,

May 19, 1986

Placed on File