

An Open letter to the Cambridge City Council

From: Michael R. Buck 24 1/2 Antrim St. Cambridge
491-8942

Mr. Mayor, ^{1994 NOV 17 AM 9:09} Councilors:

I'm sure you're getting tired of hearing this by now, but I'd like to bring this point home one more time.

I hope you recognize what you have wrought here. I will emphasize "you" for it was solely the inability of this Council to address some basic inequities in our Rent Control System that has brought this potential calamity upon, not only your own constituents, but upon every community in the Commonwealth that has or might have chosen to institute, basic tenant protections.

key to why this was a State-wide issue is the fact that any community so inclined, with some organizational effort, might have implemented a Rent Control System.

This scared people. This scared Homeowners who have heard some of the history of our Cambridge system.

We'd all like to have the utopian community where diverse lifestyles co-exist in harmony and our children can learn and grow in a rich environment of stimulation and opportunity. Here in Cambridge, for many of us at least, we've come close to this.

But now your failure to deal with a few sensitive, legitimate issues has put this at risk.

You have forced property owners, whose efforts at redress for so many years have been rebuffed and ignored, into resorting to this blunt instrument.

I have every faith that, now that we have your attention, you'll be able to muster your considerable talents and draft a proposal that will address the most serious ills of our system while leaving intact enough basic protections to preserve and maintain our community as we know

and love it.

I hope the State Legislature and Governor Weld have the courage and wisdom to recognize that this issue was brought to bear State-wide solely due to the intransigence of elements of this Council alone, and that evidenced by the proposals presented to them by this Council, recognize that serious reform has been achieved and act accordingly.

Here is a short list of issues I see as most responsible for us being where we are today:

1. Home owners prohibited from occupying their own property. This issue speaks for itself.
2. Home owners who have to be away for extended periods of time unable to rent their own homes for enough to cover the mortgage.
3. "Wealthy" tenants occupying controlled units. I understand that this can be a difficult and sensitive issue, but clearly some of the high profile cases contributed significantly to the voter response.
4. The over ~~zealous~~ zealous protections afforded ^{to} clearly abusive individuals and groups often resulting in hardship and heartache for small Homeowners struggling to make ends meet. Personal experience with this issue has helped shape my opinion of and respect for our local system.

I'm sure there are many "Horror Stories" circulating State-wide and beyond stemming from these and other issues, but I suspect that the most Damning and Damaging are the direct result of this last item.

Thank you for your considerate attention,

Michael R. Buck

Comm.

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S-522

Comm. from Michael R. Buck, 24½ Antrim
Street, requesting the City Council to
address some basic inequities in the
Rent Control system.

In City Council,

November 17, 1994

Placed on file