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# Cambridge Community

CAMBRIDGE MA.

33 Trowbridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: (617) 491-6369

Cambridge, January 4 1990

"OPEN LETTER TO ALL CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCILLORS, -FOR STRONGER RENT-  
CONTROL & PRO-TENANT SLATE MANDATE TO IMMEDIATELY AND URGENTLY  
REMOVE AND CANCEL ALL ANTI-TENANT ORDINANCES & ANTI-RENT CONTROL  
REGULATIONS AND SPECULATIVE OVER-CHARGES OF RENTS PASSED IN THE  
LAST 10 YEARS-PLUS BY ANTI-TENANT COUNCILLORS & SOME SPECIFIC ANTI-  
TENANT ISSUES & HIGHER ARTIFICIALLY-SPECULATIVE RENTS GENERAL AND  
PARTICULAR OVER-EXTRA INCREASES & OVERCHARGES BY SOME ANTI-TENANT  
RENT CONTROL BOARD STAFF & MEMBERS HIRED BY-THROUGH THE CITY MANAGER"

Dear Cambridge City Councillors Ed Cyr, Francis Duehay, Jonathan Myers, Vice-Mayor Kenneth Reeves, Sheila Russell, Walter Sullivan, Timothy Toomey, William Walsh and Mayor Alice Wolf:

Cambridge Community, Cambridge Community House, and Cambridge Tenants for Stronger Rent Control, jointly honors to ask the newly elected Cambridge City Council through thi open letter, to urgently honor, respect and carry out the majority vote, will and pro-tenant and worker mandate of the people of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The following election issues that the majority of the people of Cambridge demanded and voted therefore for a Pro-Tenant slate majority in the Cambridge City Council shall therefore be immediately and urgently consider & re-consider and voted positively by the new Cambridge City Council:

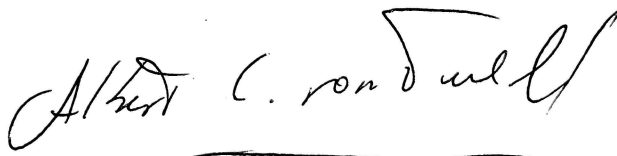
- 1.- To Remove, rescind and cancel all anti-tenant ordinances and regulations passed in the last 10 years by some anti-tenant issue-members of City Council & Rent Control Board members & staff. Like the one of unapproved sub-tenant by the landlord, because the housing crisis shortage force people to double-up in apartments, specially friends taking up homeless friends evicted because of unaffordable rents, condo conversions, speculation, etc; The 5 people per apartment' state law must be upheld in the City of Cambridge for both rent-control & non-rent-control apartments, if so decided by the main tenant(s) on lease or at will-tenants.
- 2.- To Order the Rent Control Board to immediately lower all the rents in Rent-Controlled Apartments who are being artificially over-charged and rent-increased, for the amount at least compared to similar Rent-Controlled Apartments which are similar (or even better in quality) but are paying the rightful amount o' rent as demanded or required by a fair rent-control law as originally voted and demanded by the people of Cambridge back in 1970. Higher artificially or speculative past increases (unfairs) of rents shall be returned or computed toward extra lower rents to tenants or ex-tenants (forced to move because of that injustice of getting around the rent control laws to extra-increase speculative rents).

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- 3.-To start & conduct regularly (on a quarterly basis-schedule and also in a monthly or weekly "televised" schedule- 1 hour of hearing & debate for tenants on need to bring their rents-landlords urgent problems before the council regular Monday televised meetings) Pro-Tenant & Pro-Rent Control Hearings for resolution of the grievances and afflictions of all Cambridge Tenants both in Rent Controlled & Non-Rent Controlled Apartments.
- 4.-To Carry Out Alone, or along the local City census, or and Federal forthcoming census, a special census sheet to tabulate income of each resident of Cambridge with other rent paying or home-ownership paying mortgage data in all rental apartments and home-ownership and condos. Specific data will be better than the Abt Report' unverified telephone query, and will clearly determine the urgent problems and future housing needs of the people of the City of Cambridge, MA.
- 5.-To seek and investigate the fairness of the MIT-Harvard speculation and massive taking of land from Cambridge, as well of other speculators that have forced-reduced the population of Cambridge by 10,000 to 15,000 instead of its potential natural increase due to its nearness to Boston. To seek and take over by Eminent Domain land hold up by MIT, Harvard and other speculators in Cambridge, specially a major portion from the MIT over 100 acres of land hold up by MIT of the so-called Simplex land and other adjacent lands making up more than 100 acres of land and which rather shall be used to build 10,000 new units of affordable housing 5,000 for moderate income and 5,000 for low income workers and families, special needs, elderly, social security, welfare and disabled individuals and families, as demanded in City Council public hearings from 1985 on about that Simplex and other Cambridgeport lands by the undersigned organizations and other individuals (like Carbs Gonzales, etc), and community organizations and pro-affordable housing advocates and residents and tenants citywide.

Sincerely Yours,



Albert von Puell, President & Founder of & for  
Cambridge Community,  
Cambridge Community House,  
Cambridge Tenants for Stronger Rent Control  
Cambridge Workers for Stronger Rent Control  
Cambridge Tenants & Workers for Expansion  
of Rent Control to Other Non-Rent Controlled Units.

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**Comm. from Albert von Puell, President  
and Founder of Cambridge Community,  
urging the City Council for stronger  
Rent Control and Pro-Tenant Slate  
Mandate.**

**In City Council,**

**January 8, 1990**

*Placed on file*

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