

TO: The City Council - Cambridge, Massachusetts

The undersigned propose and support petition/proposal herewith to widen
Elmer Street to a width of Thirty (30' 0") Feet.

NAME (signature)

ADDRESS

1 Douglas [Signature]	5 Elmer St Cambridge Ma
2 Richard [Signature] no	5 Elmer St. Cambridge MA 02138
3 Brian E. Campbell	5 ELMER ST CAMBRIDGE MA
4 June C. Webber	5 Elmer St Cambridge Ma 02138
5 Judy Morse	5 Elmer St. Cambridge, MA.
6 [Signature]	21 Elmer St (corner 3-5 Elmer St)

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	<u>NAME (signature)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
7		7 Elmer St #1
8	M. NIAVE	9 Elmer St #1
9	Ana Bruno	9 Elmer St 1F
10	Rosemarie Trajer	7 Elmer St #2
11	City of Somerville	9 Elmer #2
12	Long & Puma	17 Elmer
13	St. H Construction Co	4 Verdun St. Camb
14	McGraw	17 Elmer / 3 Walker St. Camb
15	Therese L. Spuntz	21 Elmer St
16	The Dominion Trust	(over 7 - 22 Elmer St)

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	<u>NAME (signature)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
17	Curtis P. Hinchley (CURTIS P. HINCKLEY)	25 ELMER ST. #1 CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
18	Elizabeth C. Ewer	23 Elmer St #2 Cambridge, MA 02138
19	Gene M. Colm	25 ELMER ST - #2
20	William S. Ewing	23 ELMER ST #2
21	Diane Lurensky	23 Elmer St. #1
22	James H. Higginbotham	25 Elmer St., #3
23	Nancy Roberts	25 Elmer St. #3
24	Elizabeth L. Brown-Loria	23 Elmer St. #3
25	Arthur H. Newell	25 Elmer #2
26	Robert J. Ruffalo	23 Elmer #3
27	Harold L. Spurr Trust	Over 23.25 Elmer St.
28	De La Trist	

PROPOSAL TO WIDEN ELMER STREET TO A WIDTH OF THIRTY (30' 0") FEET

Taking of Five (5' 0") Foot strip of land on the even numbered side of Elmer Street (numbers 4 through and including 36 per plan), and an easement on corner lot where Elmer Street, joins Hingham Street, so that at such time as that small residential property is no longer in use, is razed, or otherwise removed, the City will extend (what appears from the plan to be) the last 41' (forty one feet), to the corner of Hingham Street.

With the demolition and removal of the "laundry buildings", some of which appear to have been constructed in part on City of Cambridge land (but are now removed), this proposal takes no developed property; only a small strip of large back yards of buildings facing on Putnam Avenue, and a small strip along the side and at rear of the building facing on Hingham Street. We are advised the vacant lot at corner of Putnam Avenue and Hingham Street, next to the small residential property is in the same ownership, and if this is the fact there would be no hardship created. Similarly, we are advised the next property after the vacant lot north of Hingham Street, along Putnam Avenue, is in the same ownership. If either fact is correct, there would be no resulting hardship.

At the northerly end of Elmer Street, Harvard University (part of Peabody Terrace), has constructed and operates a garage for about four hundred cars. This results in very heavy traffic, day and night and weekends, on Elmer Street, which is too narrow to carry the load. With one row of parking on the odd numbered side, it is dangerous for cars to pass at best. This addition of five feet will bring the street up to roughly a standard width, alleviate traffic congestion and dangers, and enhance the neighborhood, improving Elmer Street from an "alley" to a Street.

The timing of this proposal is critical, and it should be implemented before there is construction, which would drive up the land costs and cause other difficulties.

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CAMBRIDGE MA

A substantial amount of the property involved is under a Notice Of Responsibility from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (per letter part of which was read to the City Council by the City Manager on 14 September 1987), and at this point cannot be built upon. If there is a building permit outstanding it appears to have been issued in error; there being no valid "21-E" and no presentation to, discussion by, or vote of the City Council per vote of November, 1982; which would require action by the City Council as a condition precedent to issuance of any building permit. (Street No.s 12-26).

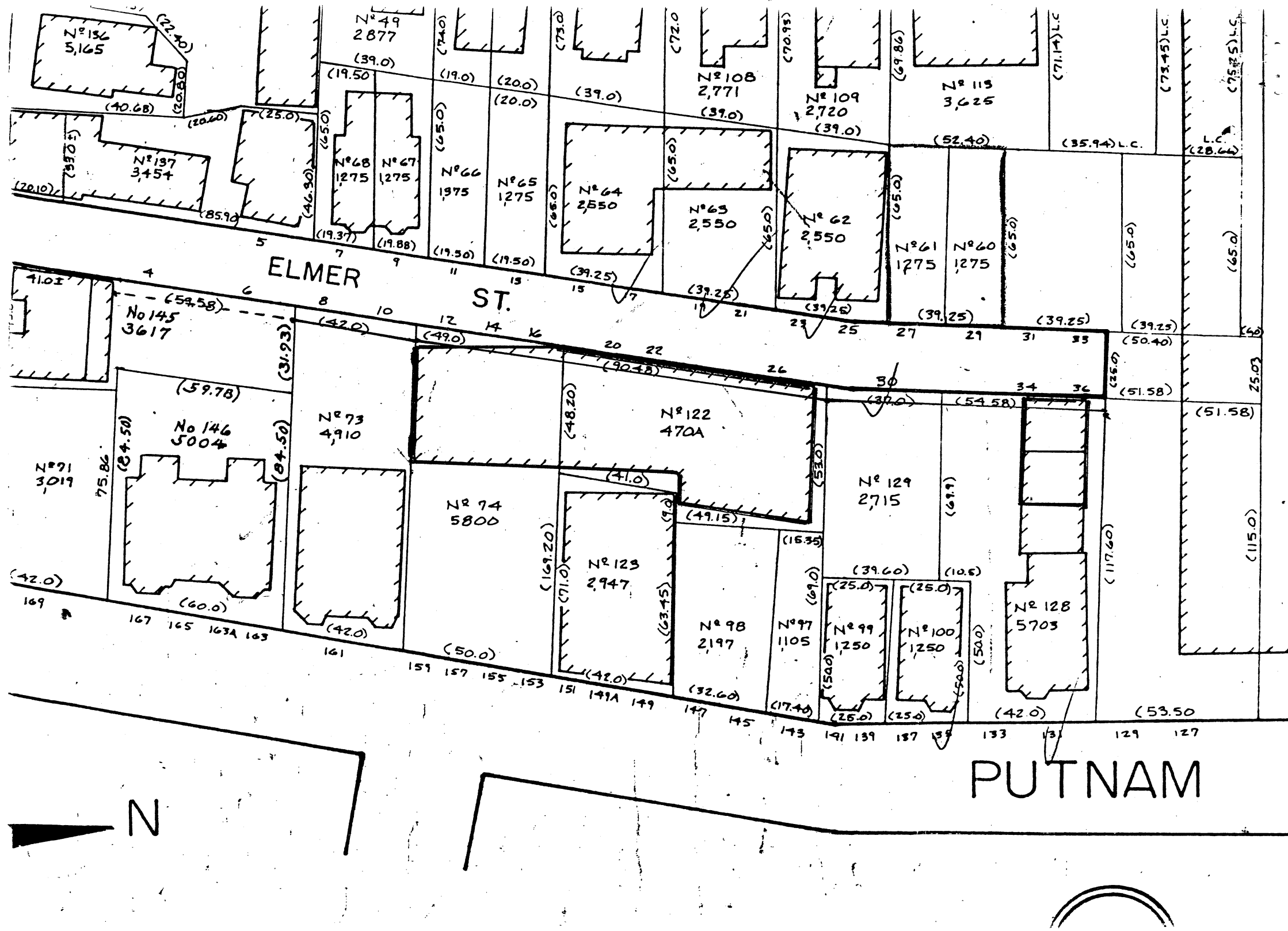
The rear yards of the other properties are not independent buildable lots, and the required takings would therefore cause a minimum of injury and a minimum of expense to the City. Large yards remain behind each property.

With the removal of the "laundry buildings," and the necessary removal of underground tanks which appear to be under the City Street, it is clear the street will have to be repaved. This is the time to effect the takings, install curbs and sidewalks, and repave Elmer Street, at minimum expense and inconvenience to all parties, owners, and tenants.

Explanation of plan herewith (photocopied from Assessors' Plan), at Building Dept.

Outlined in RED - masonry structures that have been removed by their owners.

Outlined in GREEN - proposed strip to be taken by eminent domain to widen Elmer Street. Dashed Segment over Street numbers 4 through 6, could either be taken or an easement put in place to assure land will not be built upon and may be taken later when the building at corner of Hingham Street, is taken out of use.





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Department of Environmental Quality Engineering
Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Region*

5 Commonwealth Avenue

Woburn, Massachusetts 01801

S. RUSSELL SYLVA
Commissioner

935-2160

September 10, 1987

Mr. Joseph Raduano
3 Partridge Hill Road
Dover, N.H. 02030

RE: CAMBRIDGE - ERB-N37-882
Hazardous Material Release at
12-26 Elmer Street, Cambridge
WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF NOTICE OF
RESPONSIBILITY/SUMMARY OF RESPONSE
ACTIONS TAKEN/REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir:

As a result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) on June 27, 1987, the Department has determined that there has been a release of various materials from an abandoned laundromat you own at 143-147, 153-159 Putnam Avenue, and 12-26 Elmer Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Department's investigation found that abandoned drums, underground storage tanks and asbestos insulation existed at your facility which was being razed. One section of the building had been demolished prior to the Department's arrival and a chemical substance had been released from the rubble. Prior to demolishing that section, four 55 gallon drums of material were removed from the building and placed in the parking lot. Inside the rest of the building were many drums of different sizes containing various substances. Many of these drums were labeled "corrosive" and some had released their contents. The floor of the building was covered with detergent, clothes and powdered chemicals. Over fifty 55 gallon drums of material from inside the building was removed for proper disposal.

There exists at least three underground storage tanks on site, each containing an unknown amount of product. One tank is believed to contain petroleum naphtha and another vinyl chloride. The asbestos surrounding the above ground heating tank was broken and there existed the potential for release of material into the environment. This asbestos has since been removed for proper disposal.

To date, contaminated material has been removed from inside the building. The four drums outside the building have also been removed for proper disposal. The cleaning and removal of the underground tanks will occur after the building has been demolished. Such incident is governed by Chapter 21E of the General Laws of Massachusetts (hereinafter "M.G.L. Chapter 21E"), the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act, which was enacted on March 24, 1983.

The Department has reason to believe based on available information that you are, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 21E, Section 5(a), responsible for the occurrence of such release.

On June 27, 1987, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Department personnel verbally notified you of your responsibility for such release and gave you one copy of a document prepared by the Department and entitled "Brief Synopsis of M.G.L. Chapter 21E, the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act." You accepted such responsibility at that time.

Your acceptance of responsibility for such release means that you have entered into a contract with cleanup contractor, approved by the Department, named Jet Line Services, Inc. of Stoughton, MA to take all necessary remedial actions (i.e. assessment, containment and/or removal actions) relative to such release and to pay for all response costs incurred by the Department due to such release.

The Department hereby requests that you submit to the undersigned, Richard Chalpin, the following information:

- (1) a brief account of why, how and where such release occurred; and
- (2) a description of all assessment, containment and/or removal actions that have been and/or will be taken relative to such release; and
- (3) an estimate, to the best of your knowledge, of the quantity and types of hazardous material released; and
- (4) copies of all hazardous waste manifests for the hazardous material released; and
- (5) laboratory results of all samples taken from the underground tanks, drums of material and contaminated debris; and
- (6) any other information that is pertinent to the assessment, containment and/or removal of such release; and
- (7) written notification stating your intent to remove the underground storage tanks, which must be received by this office at least two business days prior to removal.

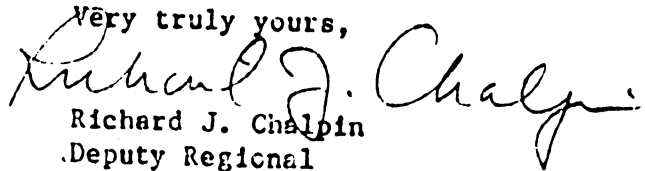
Failure to comply, in a timely manner with the above-stated request will constitute a violation of M.G.L. Chapter 21E.

A copy of the text of M.G.L. Chapter 21E is available, upon written request from the Bookstore, Rm. 116, State House, Boston, MA 02133. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Ottenheimer, at 935-2160 and refer to case N87-882.

Mr. Raduano
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Thank you for your cooperation regarding this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Chalpin
Deputy Regional
Environmental Engineer

RJC/DO/2c

cc: Frank Sciannameo, DEQE, CIR, 1 Winter St., Boston, MA 02108
Saba Shah, DEQE, Enforcement, 1 Winter St., Boston, MA 02108
BCH, Cambridge Hospital, 1493 Cambridge St., Rm. 715, Cambridge, MA 02139
Attn: Dr. Chalfen, Director

Petition of 28 residents of Elmer St., requesting that Elmer St. be widened to a width of thirty feet.

In City Council,

October 19, 1987

*Referred to City Manager
+
Commissioner of Public Works
for report in three weeks*

*10/20/87 Copy sent to C. Mgr &
Comm. of Public Works
(cle)*