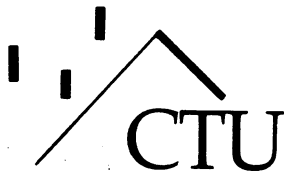


1991 APR 30 PM 3:49



CAMBRIDGE TENANTS UNION

April 30, 1991

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

To the Honorable; the City Council:

The Steering Committee of the Cambridge Tenants Union (CTU) hopes that you will all support city funding of the Cambridge Housing Services program for the coming fiscal year. As you may appreciate, the landlord-tenant counselors and mediators who are part of this program (CEOC, Just-A-Start and Cambridge Dispute Settlement Center) are exceptionally sincere and hard-working. We at CTU know that many of the people served by this program are deeply grateful to these caseworkers for preventing their evictions and saving their homes.

Each month, CEOC Tenant Services handles a large number of tenant cases called in both directly and by referral. This is a tremendously important service for tenants. We are also aware that Cambridge Housing Services amicably resolves and mediates large numbers of landlord-tenant disputes every year and thereby prevents these cases from going to court.

Last year, Cambridge Housing Services prevented 246 families from becoming homeless. Since the average cost of housing families in shelters or motels is \$2,000 a month, this program may have saved the city and/or the state \$492,000 per month or close to six million dollars last year.

The work of the dedicated people in these programs speaks for itself. Just-A-Start Landlord Services which helps small property owners, and CEOC Tenant Services which helps poor tenants, immigrant tenants, and frequently Section 8 and 707 tenants, provide such great services to the community that they are now indispensable programs.

We urge you to hold firm in your resolve to include Cambridge Housing Services in the city budget for the coming fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

(for) Cambridge Tenants Union
Constance Thibaut

3.

Communication received from Constance Thibaut, Cambridge Tenants Union, requesting support for the City's funding of the Cambridge Housing Services Program.

In City Council,

May 6, 1991

Referred to the Finance
Committee and the City
Managers.

Copy sent to Mgr. 5/7/91
PMC

Copy sent to Finance
Committee 5/9/91 (cc)