



City of Cambridge

Consent Comm. #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the attached communication be referred to the City Manager with a request that he provide a recommendation to the City Council as to how to solve this problem, including information about what kind of facilities are available such as those in parts of Boston.

In City Council April 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



Putnam

Furniture Leasing Company, Inc.

RECEIVED BY

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

98 APR 13 AM 11:53

CAMBRIDGE, MA.



EXECUTIVE OFFICES

614 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-354-3358
FAX: 617-354-5571

SHOWROOMS

614 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-354-3358
11 Acton Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
508-256-9251
929 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701
508-879-8383
1280 Oaklawn Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
401-463-6360
7 Jansen Court
W. Hartford, Conn. 06110
860-953-4015
23 Daniel St.
Milford, Conn. 06460
203-877-2791

April 8, 1998

Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: PUBLIC TOILETS IN CENTRAL SQUARE

The above-noted subject has been a constant cause for discussion for many years. Unfortunately, for whatever the reasons, nothing has yet been done about it.

Attached, you will please find a photostatic copy of a memo from a woman employee who is in her mid-70's. She is a very highly regarded individual, and I am extremely unhappy to have had her experience the embarrassment and possible danger of physical harm often attached to such episodes.

I do hope that further consideration might be given to solving the problem of need for toilet facilities in Central Square. There have been too many of these incidents, and I am sure that other building owners, customers, pedestrians, all complain of this problem.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

CFB98/CityCo

Enc.

cc: CSBA Board of Directors

RE: PUBLIC TOILETS IN CENTRAL SQUARE
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Member of



April 2, 1998

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Barron

RE: NEED FOR PUBLIC TOILETS IN CENTRAL SQUARE

At 2:00 p.m., as I was coming back from the grocery store, I found the approach to the stairway blocked by a homeless man using our landing as a urinal.

I quickly backed out so as not to embarrass him and waited for him to emerge. This took quite a while. While I was waiting, one of his buddies who was squatting on the sidewalk asked me why I was waiting and to go on in. When I told him the stairs led to our offices, he said they had no idea--they just thought it was a cubbyhole. I asked him if he would please tell his friends not to use it as a public toilet and he said he would.

Finally, the homeless man exited our foyer and I spoke briefly with him to let him know that the stairs led to a place of business and should not be used as a public toilet, that it caused us a lot of grief and that we could lose our customers because of this. He assured me that he was not "watering", that he was just inside "talking to a lady about how it smelled like a urinal". I told him that I believed him and would he please tell his friends not to use the Putnam landing again. He said that he would and told me his name was Jake.

Up to now, I hadn't given much thought to this other than how to best get around the puddles. This makes me think that most of the people using our landing are probably like Jake, with no place to go, afraid to use the alley, and not wanting to go to a shelter. Public toilets are not a solution for the underlying problem but they would certainly help.

Sincerely,

(name withheld)

Consent Communication #2

5-287

A communciation was received from
Carl F. Barron, Putnam Furniture Leasing
Company, Inc., transmitting a letter
regarding public toilets in Central Square.

In City Council April 27, 1998

**PLACED ON FILE
ORDER ADOPTED**