



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 7, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

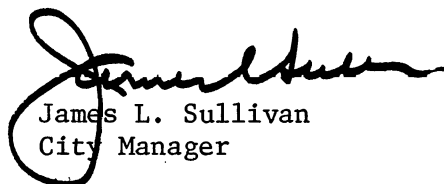
The residents of Mid-Cambridge have been concerned over many years because of the lack of adequate play space in the Mid-Cambridge neighborhood. They are concerned in particular with providing additional outside area for physical, educational activities for the Longfellow School.

They have approached this office and the Community Development Department with a request to acquire the Pelrine site on West Street by eminent domain as a potential for increasing the amount of open space in Mid-Cambridge. The Community Development Department has acknowledged the need for additional open recreational space in Mid-Cambridge, but feels that the cost of acquisition and improvements on the Pelrine site would be excessive for the amount of land involved and would only marginally improve the situation at great expense.

The area of the Pelrine site is 11,500 square feet of space and the cost of acquisition is estimated at approximately \$250,000. It is by far the easiest alternative to execute, as the building is vacant and it is next to an existing play lot.

If the property is to be acquired it would require an eminent domain taking by the City Council, and this communication is forwarded to you to solicit the views of the Council on this important matter. If the property is acquired it will be necessary to demolish the existing building and then to develop the lot in question. Since Block Grant money is not available for the purpose, it would be necessary to do this through a property tax effort.

Respectfully submitted,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf

5-267

RE: open space in the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood.

In City Council,

May 7, 1979

5/7/1979

-Placed on File-

Meeting set
for Monday May
14, 1979 at 7:00 PM
at

-Briggsfellow School-