



City of Cambridge

O-5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 2002

COUNCILLOR MURPHY

- WHEREAS: (The City of Cambridge and Cambridge social service organizations face dramatic cuts in state funds in areas including home care services for seniors; funding for public libraries, homeless assistance and domestic violence prevention; and)
- WHEREAS: The City Council agree that to meet the expectations of our community and truly meet our obligations to the citizens who live here, (adequate state funding) must be made available to allow delivery of these services; and
- WHEREAS: The revenue measures approved by the House of Representatives, while a significant beginning, do not adequately meet those funding obligations; and
- WHEREAS: Even with the tax increases passed by the House, the state is expected to face a budget shortfall of \$1.5 billion; and
- WHEREAS: The City Council believes that the state must look to additional sources of revenue such as keeping the 2002 income tax rate at the same 5.6% rate as 2001, increasing the sales tax by \$.01, and doubling the excise tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco to avoid cuts that will hurt working families, seniors, the homeless and schools; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record urging the Senate to close the funding gap by approving these revenue-raising proposals, therefore properly funding services vital to our city; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge Legislative Delegation to the State House.

why not
elim
peace?
Comm?
Hunters
Comm.
Womens
Comm?



City of Cambridge

O-11

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 13, 2002

COUNCILLOR DECKER

WHEREAS: In the wake of September 11, spurred on by a climate of fear, the US Congress and Senate passed Attorney General Ashcroft's 350 page USA PATRIOT Act; and

WHEREAS: This act was enacted after less than one day of deliberation and **without** the support of Congressman Capuano; and

WHEREAS: This Act has a chilling effect on many aspects of life from denial of due process protections to immigrants, to using the new label of domestic terrorism to silence dissent, to assaults on rights to privacy and freedom from government surveillance; and

WHEREAS: While many people may feel uncomfortable with the general idea of the Act, most know little about its specific provisions nor their potential impact on our communities; and

WHEREAS: United for Justice for Peace-Cambridge, a grassroots effort, with the support of the Cambridge Peace Commission and the Cambridge Human Rights Commissions is organizing a community educational event; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council lends its sponsorship to the CITYWIDE EDUCATION FORUM to be held on Tuesday, May 28 from 6:30 to 8:30, at the Cambridge Senior Citizens Center. State Representative Alice Wolf will moderate the event with an overview from Nancy Murray, coordinator for the ACLU Bill of Rights Project and member of the Cambridge Peace Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council will support the educational forum through the participation of its members and through providing information relevant to understanding the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act on Cambridge including information which may be in the domain of the Public Safety and Civil Unity Committees; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council urges Cambridge residents and city departments to attend the event to share their own experiences of the impact of the USA PATRIOT Act and listen to the information provided; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council is prepared to consider a resolution making Cambridge "a sanctuary city" for democracy and civil liberties at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 10th.

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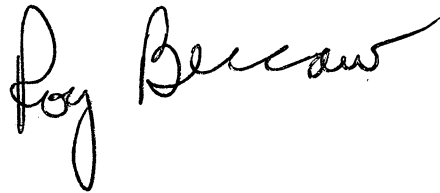
Letter from Roy Bercaw May 16, 2002

status was directed at, were persons of Arab descent. The previous sanctuary city status was cited as a precedent. That was for persons from Guatemala whose country was not at war with the US.

But currently several Muslim nations and those of Arab dominant populations are teaching their young people to hate the US, Israel and Jews; to create an atmosphere where killing oneself in order to kill Israelis, Jews and Americans is a religious duty. This City should not be used as a sanctuary for persons who desire to kill American citizens, Israeli citizens, or to destroy any portion of the US. That is an ignominy.

The second offense of this order (O-11) conflicts with the intent of (Order-5) passed on May 13, 2002. O-5 laments "dramatic cuts in state funds in areas including home care services for seniors; funding for public libraries, homeless assistance and domestic violence prevention." The money used for continuing the Human Rights Commission and the Peace Commission amounts to more than \$100,000 per year. This money could well be used to fill in the gaps necessitated by the loss of state revenue. Neither performs its legal duty.

Currently the City of Cambridge shows that its priorities encourage City employees to use taxpayer funds for their personal preferences in political, charitable and religious action. This is counterproductive, and undermines public support for vulnerable citizens of all political persuasions. It is an appropriate time to phase out those luxury Commissions.



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ENOUGH ROOM
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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
May 16, 2002

The Honorable City Council
City of Cambridge
795 Mass Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

Re: Misappropriation
of taxpayer funds

On Monday May 13, 2002 the City Council approved a petition (Order-11) which was supported by the Cambridge Peace Commission and the Cambridge Human Rights Commission. Currently the stated mission of the Peace Commission is to work to prevent nuclear war. The petition approved by the City Council was about fear of deprivation of constitutional rights of a select population of the nation. Why this one group deserves more protection against violations of their rights than others was not explained.

Similarly the Human Rights Commission has a duty to investigate and prosecute or refer, violations of discrimination laws due to race, religion, disability and other categories, in housing, employment, and access to government services. This form of access is not limited to physically getting into a building, but legal access as in the right to access to police protection, the courts, etc.

Currently the Human Rights Commission refuses, contrary to City Ordinance, to address repeated violations of discrimination law by city police officers, and other institutions within Cambridge against some disabled persons.

Using the offices, telephones and paid employees for promoting fears of violations of constitutional rights of a select population, violates the mission of the Commissions. It is a misuse of taxpayer funds, an unlawful abuse.

The Peace Commission has sponsored several activities over the years which are outside of its stated mission to prevent nuclear war. This waste of taxpayer funds must end. It is an ethics violation. It is magnanimous of employees of the Peace Commission and the Human Rights Commission to speak out against a few of the many abuses throughout the world. But who chooses which abuses are addressed by City taxpayer funds? This is a personal benefit which is not authorized by law.

The Peace Commission employees, and the Human Rights Commission employees are free to support any charitable, religious, cultural or political efforts they want. But they may not do so on the public dime. That is unlawful.

Two aspects of this endeavor are particularly offensive presently. The City Council stated that it "is prepared to consider making Cambridge a 'sanctuary city' for democracy and civil liberties." At a concert held in April, 2002, the Peace Commission stated that the population of residents that this sanctuary city

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Consent Communication #6

A communication was received
from Roy Bercaw, regarding
misappropriation of taxpayer funds.

In City Council May 20, 2002

PLACED ON FILE.