

NOVEMBER 19, 1994

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

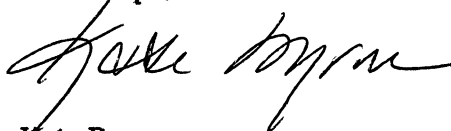
Prior to November 8, I had been working on two issues in my neighborhood, the NO ON NINE campaign and the rapes that remain unsolved. Since November 9 the fear about safety on the street and in our homes has become much more focused on the lack of safety of our housing. Many tenants and others who have been activists in the NO ON NINE campaign fear the retribution of the landlords as they gloat and laugh at the pain and agony evident on the faces and in the hearts of residents.

It is important for the council to remember many things when voting on what will be sent to the state legislature. Question 9 failed in Cambridge by 58-42, passed in the state by only 51-49. Who is your allegiance to? Remember not only the elderly, handicapped and very poor, but also the people who work everyday to build Cambridge, the welder with two kids, bringing home 450 a week and paying 650 a month under rent control, the 60 year old, African American janitor in a one bedroom paying 475 a month under rent control, the Mexican American single mother working two jobs and paying 600 a month under rent control, the mother of several children, living with AIDS, working full-time and caring for a child with AIDS who pays 600 a month rent under rent control. These are all real people with real situations that you may or may not know about but what will happen to them and the many others like them who are not able as some of the rest of us to get to city hall and testify.

The gloating, smirking faces, the "invitation" to pack our bags and go to Russia, the harassment that tenants have already been subjected to show how little the landlords care in any way about the people of Cambridge. They care that they have the control of a necessity of life, shelter, that they can use to make the most profit out of whoever can afford to pay their bloated prices. They win and the rest of us lose.

Please stand up to this injustice. Some tenants in fear and desperation are searching right now for safe, affordable housing outside of Cambridge. Many tenants are prepared to stay, to fight increases and refuse eviction. Many homeowners and non-rent controlled tenants are committed to blocking evictions of any tenants as a result of Question 9. I am asking you to stand with the people of Cambridge and take a strong home rule petition to the state house, fight for the people of Cambridge. It's your job.

With hope,



Kate Byrne

158 Brookline St. #3

Comm. # 9

S- 537

Comm. from Kate Byrne, 158 Brookline Street,
3, urging the City Council to take action
strong home rule petition to keep rent
control.

In City Council,

November 20, 1994

Placed on file

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