

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF COMMUNITIES & DEVELOPMENT

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Michael S. Dukakis, Governor
Amy S. Anthony, Secretary

December 6, 1989

Mr. Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Your comments regarding the proposed revisions to the Rent Determination Regulation for state-aided public housing and rental assistance tenants (760 CMR 7.00) have been forwarded to me. As you may be aware, EOCD held a public hearing on the proposed Regulation on October 26, 1989, and had an extended written comment period through November 6, 1989.

Both at the public hearing and through written submissions, EOCD has received numerous comments and opinions relative to the proposed revisions. These are now being carefully reviewed to determine what changes or refinements to the proposed revisions may be appropriate.

As was emphasized in Secretary Anthony's statements presented at the October 26th hearing, EOCD only began considering a revision to the Rent Determination Regulation as a result of the extremely difficult budget situation facing the Department and the State, and only after achieving significant savings through cuts in other areas of the Department's operations.

These cuts have not been sufficient to meet the Department's savings requirements, however, particularly in light of the proposal of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives to reduce EOCD's current year budget by almost \$20 million.

Accordingly, the Department is required to examine revisions to the Rent Determination Regulation for possible savings since, given current budget estimates, the only alternative would be a dramatic reduction in the numbers of rental assistance certificates that EOCD could make available. Nonetheless, we approach this task very reluctantly, and mindful of the additional burdens any rent changes may place on some households.

While EOCB may not have any choice at this time but to proceed with revisions to the Rent Determination Regulation, we will be doing everything possible to ensure that the changes are as progressive as possible, to minimize any negative impact on those tenants with the lowest income or greatest needs. In our review of the comments received from you and other interested citizens, we will be very attentive to suggestions to help us meet this goal.

It is our expectation that the final version of any revisions to the Rent Determination Regulation will be announced in December, with implementation of the new Regulation to begin on March 1, 1990.

Again, let me thank you for the concern and comments which you have provided relative to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Hebert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Hebert
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Housing Operations

Comm. from Scott Hebert, Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Housing Operations, Exec.
Office of Communities and Development,
regarding the proposed revisions to the
Rent Determination Regulation for state-aided
public housing and rental assistance tenants.

In City Council,

Dec. 18, 1989

Placed on file