



# City of Cambridge

14.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
October 26, 1998

COUNCILLOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
MAYOR DUEHAY  
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY  
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Observers have reported that at the Blockbuster Video Store in Central Square, various "black" movies can only be rented at the cash register and are not to be found on the open shelves with other movies; and

WHEREAS: When asked about this policy, employees said it was first, a "company" policy and later the "manager's" policy; and

WHEREAS: This policy could only be found to apply to recent movies like "He Got Game" and "First Time Felon", the question is posed whether or not this policy could be reviewed by the City's Consumer Advisory Office and/or the Human Rights Commission to determine: What the "official" policy is; Does it only apply to movies which are thought to appeal to black audiences primarily; and if the policy applies only to "black" movies of a certain genre, discriminatory; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That if such a policy is found to exist and is discriminatory, that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to answer who has standing to pursue a complaint.

In City Council October 26, 1998.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-  
D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

Reenes

Whereas:

(14)

(93) ✓

Observers have reported that at the Blockbuster Video store in Central Square, various "black" monies can only be rented at the cash register and are not to be found on the open shelves with other monies and

Whereas when asked about this policy, <sup>employees said</sup> it was first, ~~such as~~ <sup>by a</sup> "Company" policy and later the "Manager's" policy and

Whereas: This policy could only be found to apply to recent monies like "He Got Game" and First Time Felon", the question is posed whether or not this policy could be reviewed by the City's Consumer ~~Advocacy~~ office and/or

the Human Rights Commission  
to determine; ① What the "official"  
policy is; ② ~~To which movies~~  
Does it only apply  
to movies which are thought to  
appeal to black audiences primarily  
and; ③ If the policy applies only  
to black movies of a certain  
genre is it discriminatory.  
If such a policy <sup>is found to</sup> exists and  
is discriminatory, who has standing  
to pursue a complaint.



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Consent Order #14

580CM

Councillor Reeves re: investigate the policy  
of the rental of "black" movies at  
Blockbuster Video Store in Central Square.

In City Council October 26, 1998

**ORDER ADOPTED**