

9
March 20, 1995
55 Lafayette Street
Arlington, MA. 01274

City Council
Cambridge, Mass.

I wish to address the council on the issue of the religious sayings carved into one of the walls of the Cambridge Public Library. I see the continued display of this wall as a clear breach of the separation of church and state, and a flagrant violation of the United States and Massachusetts constitutions. I have tried to address this issue within channels, but I have been met with evasion and stalling. I have enclosed a letter to the director of the Cambridge Public Library presenting my position on this issue.

Eric Chester

Eric Chester

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OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
1995 MAR 23 PM 12:19
CAMBRIDGE MA.

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March 16, 1995
55 Lafayette St.
Arlington, MA. 02174

Susan Flannery
Director of the Library
Cambridge Public Library
449 Broadway
Cambridge, MA.

Dear Ms. Flannery,

I am formally requesting that the library stop displaying the carving of the Ten Commandments in one of the main lobbies. The carving proselytises a specific religious belief, and represents a clear breach of church and state. It therefore violates both the United States and Massachusetts constitutions. Its display denigrates those of us who are not Christians, placing us as second class citizens.

I discussed these issues with you more than five weeks ago. Since then I have been stalled by a series of feeble excuses for doing nothing. The Cambridge Public Library claims to be sensitive to the concerns of the diverse population utilizing its resources. It is high time that you move beyond platitudes to take actions responsive to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Eric Chester
Eric Chester

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1995 MAR 23 PM 12:19
CAMBRIDGE MA.

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Consent Communication #9

Communication received from Eric Chester
regarding the religious sayings carved into
the wall at the Cambridge Public Library.

In City Council March 27, 1995

Charter right exercised
by Councillor Toomey

4/3/95 No action taken -

Placed on file under
Rule Nineteen of the
City Council Rules.