

TARLOW, BREED, HART, MURPHY & RODGERS, P.C.

COUNSELLORS AT LAW
21 CUSTOM HOUSE STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110
(617) 261-7600
TELECOPIER (617) 261-7673

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April 4, 1996

City Council "Dear Members of the City Council"
Ms. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

As counsel to and a Trustee of the Institute for Children, Inc., I write to request your assistance in the matter of noise disruption on Brattle Street in Cambridge.

The Institute for Children, Inc. is a private, charitable, nonprofit organization located on the second floor of 18 Brattle Street since March 1995. Throughout the spring, summer and fall of 1995, the Institute's work was consistently disrupted by the noise of street performers on Brattle Street. The Institute's staff - is prevented from the quiet enjoyment of the Institute's offices by amplified music that has at times been loud enough for callers to the Institute's offices to discern by telephone.

The Institute's president and staff have repeatedly called the Cambridge Arts Council for assistance, and have been instructed to call the Cambridge Police Department. On many occasions, a police officer has asked a street performer to turn down the volume of his amplifiers, only to be ridiculed by the performer once the officer had walked away.

On most days, including during regular business hours, several performers play instruments and sing concurrently. In competition, each elevates the volume of his amplification. The result, on the second floor of Brattle Street, is cacophony.

The Institute's president and staff respect and support the arts. They seek a fair solution that will enable the street performers to continue their work while no longer disrupting local businesses.

Ms. Margaret Drury

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Having given this matter much consideration, I propose a solution. Because the street performers are playing for the public, and are compensated by people who are in close enough proximity to hear them, I propose that they cease their use of microphones and amplifiers during all hours on all days. The experience of the past year has demonstrated that as long as any amplification is allowed, there is the danger of street performers interfering with local business' quiet enjoyment of their property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Tarlow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward D. Tarlow

EDT/jad

Consent Communication #4

S-211

Communication was received from Edward D. Tarlow, Tarlow, Breed, Hart, Murphy & Rodgers, P.C., transmitting request regarding the matter of noise disruption on Brattle Street in Cambridge.

In City Council April 22, 1996

*Referred to Harvard
Square Business
Association.*