

April 14, 1987

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

RE: (1) Garbage on Streets
and
(2) Use of Industrial Furnace
and Diesel Fuel for Home
Heating

Dear City Council Members:

I am writing concerning two issues which affect the health, safety, and well-being of citizens of Cambridge. I hope you can give me some answers and guidance on the topics.

The first is the filth on Cambridge streets largely caused, I believe, by the failure of the city to enforce the state sanitary code regarding the storage of Rubbish and Garbage. (See 105 CMR 410.600.) Each week my landlord covers the street with scores of plastic bags which, during the two days they sit outside, split, draw flies, and fill the air with an awful stench. I have called inspectional services (and spoke with Sandy who is in charge of this) with no results. For two out of five weekdays our street is lined with garbage. Given the long-standing problem with trash strewn on our streets why is this state of affairs tolerated. To require garbage to be put out no earlier than the day of collection and to mandate the use of covered containers imposes a minimum hardship on landlords while providing an enormous advantage to the city in terms of beauty and sanitation. Now with the warm weather approaching I dread the stench of rotting garbage. I urge you to take definitive measures to strictly enforce the state sanitary code. You might also want to provide a fine for homeowners (landlords and business included) who fail to periodically sweep outside of their property. In my opinion the filth in this city has reached crisis proportions necessitating strong action. My children and I recently spent 2 years in Europe and everywhere we lived (Austria, Germany, and England) the streets and parks were immaculate. Citizens there take pride in their neighborhoods. Why do we tolerate such conditions? I hope you can explain and propose some corrective measures.

My second concern is primarily one of air quality and danger of explosion. For a long time we have been subjected to the smell of diesel fuel in the air around our residence. Many days and nights we are unable to breathe fresh, clean air for long periods of time. Not only is this unpleasant but it poses a health risk as well. Upon investigation I determined that my landlord has an industrial size furnace which is fed diesel fuel. He maintains a huge tank underground, two houses away, ~~in~~ under a parking lot. Is this a violation of the Zoning laws? From this system he heats both 55 Langdon (12 units) and our home, 3 Langdon Square (6 units). Shouldn't he be required to

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

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1. The first step in the process of the investigation is the identification of the subject. This is done by the use of the subject's name, address, and other identifying information. The subject is then located and interviewed. The interview is conducted in a confidential manner and the subject is assured that the information provided will be kept confidential. The subject is then asked to provide a statement of the facts of the case. This statement is then reviewed and compared with the information obtained from the subject's background check. The results of the investigation are then reported to the appropriate authorities.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-11-2009 BY 60322 UCBAW/SAB/STP/KMP

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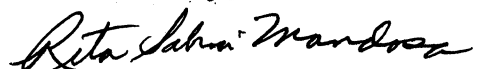
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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973).

install an ordinary home heating fuel system? The existing industrial furnace is enormous, smelly, and I suspect wasteful. Also I believe the tank underground is close to 50 years old and may be leaking. This is a possibility because we have for years been having a difficult time growing grass and flowers in the back yard. This may be due to slow leaking diesel fuel. This would also account for the diesel smell, especially in the basement. I could find no guidance on this issue in the state sanitary code and thought perhaps it relates to zoning. The maintenance of that huge underground tank worries me because of the fear of explosion and fire. Our house is in a cul-de-sac and we would have no exit if the tank went.

Thank you for considering the issues I raise in this letter. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Rita Sabina Mandosa
3 Langdon Square
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

Comm. from Rita Sabina Mandosa, expressing her concern Re: rubbish & garbage being left on City streets & the use of an industrial sized furnace utilizing diesel fuel for home heating purposes.

In City Council,

April 27, 1987

Placed on File
Copy to the City Manager

Copy sent to the City Manager
4/29/87 mh