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**To:** Editor, Cambridge Chronicle

**Fr:** Joe Costello, Chairman *J.C.*  
North Cambridge Stabilization Committee  
Subcommittee on Ristorante Marino

**Re:** Exhaust Problems at Ristorante Marino

**Dt:** 13 June 1994

Let's stop name calling and personal attacks. I can no longer remain silent. Our city councilors, the Mayor, and many other officials have worked many, many hours over the past three years to help resolve the exhaust problems at Ristorante Marino.

Dr. Chalfen, Dr. Spengler, Tom Dumyahn of Harvard, and the License Commissioners have all agreed that there is a problem that must be solved.

While some people may call it hazardous, dangerous fumes and smoke, a nuisance, or just bad air, it has to be addressed.

Although the North Cambridge area is aware of past maintenance problems with the ventilation system at Marino's, we are willing to work with the Restaurant on the recommendation made by Dr. Spengler to Dr. Chalfen on the installation of a new system.

Then we would like to turn inspection over to the proper city officials for future monitoring.

The North Cambridge neighborhood is looking to resolving this issue.

RECEIVED BY  
CITY CLERK  
JUN 15 PM 1:13  
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

17 Gold Star Road  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

June 2, 1994

Les Marino  
Ristorante Marino  
2465 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140

Re: **Proposed expansion of Ristorante Marino**

Dear Mr. Marino:

Upon review of your architectural plans for your proposed basement renovation project by our neighborhood through this subcommittee, we submit this response.

The vote of this subcommittee overwhelmingly rejected your proposal. It is clear that our neighborhood has several problems with your present operational procedures as well as your new expansion proposal. Listed below are several of the questions brought forth to me.

1. During your initial application for licensing your restaurant back in 1990, you agreed that the basement would be used only for food storage/preparation. Your original license was supported by this committee based upon a cap of 150 seats in your restaurant. We are aware that you have substantially changed your space downstairs. In fact, you have established a permanent bar area downstairs which violates the 150 seat cap. What is the sense for this committee to validate this proposed action, which is essentially renovating an illegally renovated area?
2. Since the opening of your restaurant, smoke and fume emissions from your grill and oven areas have never been addressed appropriately. Despite repeated conversations and consultations with our neighborhood, city officials, and other involved parties, you have continued to neglect these substantive health issues. It is unclear to us why you are proposing such an expensive renovation project when you have not addressed our neighborhood adequately as to your definitive plans to solve your restaurant's smoke expulsion problems. Is a laser show more important than good health and quality of life for your neighbors? Our impression of you through your work and recognition by the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine suggests that you are concerned about the prevention and cure of asthma and other lung diseases. Why won't you show the same concern on a much more local level-- i.e., your own place of business?

3. John D. Spengler, a noted environmental consultant, has recommended that you address the emission problems at Ristorante Marino in a most aggressive manner. Although Dr. Spengler attempts to remain neutral on this issue (as he surely should), his tone is clearly one of concern for the neighborhood and the levels of toxins that are being spewed by your restaurant's exhaust systems. Based upon the recommendations of this consultant, how soon will you be addressing and solving the problems you have created for us?

Mr. Marino, where do we go from here? We have addressed you in a reasonable manner in each aspect of your relationship with us. As chairman of this subcommittee, I bring forth these items of concern directly to you. We ask you today to develop and initiate an action plan to rectify the exhaust problems. We await your response to our smoke-related concerns about your restaurant before we can even begin to consider a positive response to your newest expansion proposal.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph Costello, Chairman  
North Cambridge Stabilization  
Committee Subcommittee on  
Ristorante Marino

P.S. Contrary to what Bob Shepard told us, Richard Scali advises that the License Commission must hold a public hearing and agree to amend your liquor and entertainment permits before you can lawfully reconfigure your downstairs bistro and add a laser light show.

cc: Jack Spengler  
Cambridge License Commission c/o Richard Scali  
Cambridge City Council c/o City Clerk  
Dr. Melvin Chalfen  
Robert Healy

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RECEIVED BY  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

17 Gold Star Road  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140  
1994 JUN -7 AM 9:41

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cc: Jack Spengler  
Cambridge License Commission c/o Richard Scali  
Cambridge City Council c/o City Clerk  
Dr. Melvin Chalfen  
Robert Healy

Consent Comm. # 4  
~~Consent Comm. # 6~~

8-304

Comm. from Joseph Costello, Chairman,  
North Cambridge Stabilization  
Committee subcommittee on Ristorante  
Marino, regarding the committee  
rejection of the architectural plans  
for the proposed basement renovations  
project for Mariono's Restaurant.

In City Council,

June 13, 1994

6/13 No action taken

6/20/94 Placed on file