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OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
2 HANCOCK PARK  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

July 30, 1982

The City Council of Cambridge  
c/o the City Clerk  
Town Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Council Members,

Yesterday I received the Rent Control Board's letter of July 21, 1982. To put it mildly, I was outraged.

In essence, this letter says that the Rent Control Board in response to a cut in its budget by the City Manager has decided to levy a tax on landlords to make up the difference between what the city thinks it should spend and what it thinks it should spend. In conversations today with Mr. McKinnon of the Mayor's office, I am given to believe that the City Council considered such a proposal and declined to act on it. Nevertheless, the runaway bureaucracy of the Rent Control Board, easily the most arrogant and ideological organization in the City of Cambridge, has decided to act anyhow. Moreover, it decided to act while the City Council was in recess during the summer. At the hearing the Board held on this issue, virtually all of the testimony was opposed to this scheme.

This is absolutely the last straw for me with respect to the rent control bureaucracy. Its administrators have now gone beyond anything bureaucracies have ever done in this country by levying a tax to support themselves independent of the will of the voters.

I cannot believe that the Rent Control Board has taken this step without City Council approval. The Rent Control Board exists at the sufferance of a bare 5-4 majority on the City Council. In recent elections, a Condominium Network candidate draws closer to the number 9 slot on the

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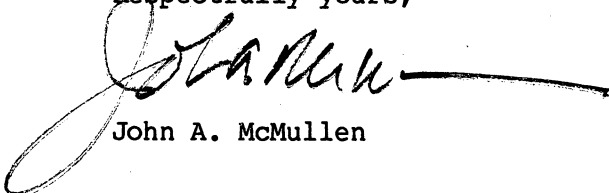
City Council. If the present administration of the City of Cambridge hopes to survive beyond the next election, it must deal with this excess of the Rent Control Board now.

May I urge the present City Council to reverse this action of the Rent Control Board forthwith. Excuses for Rent Control Board behavior can no longer be tolerated. It exists at the sufferance of the City Council and with its endorsement; the City Council will be held accountable for Board actions if it does not take measures immediately to reign in this Eastern European styled bureaucracy.

Please note that I am a tenant in Cambridge who owns one small studio condominium. I am not a representative of large landlord interests.

I look forward to an early reply on this subject from the City Council.

Respectfully yours,



John A. McMullen

JAM:smp

cc: Mr. Alfred Vellucci, Mayor  
Mr. Frank Duehay  
Mr. David Wiley  
Maria Imperato, Executive Director,  
Rent Control Board

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from John A. McMullen Re: the levy of a 1% fee on landlords recently implemented by the Rent Control Board.

In City Council,

September 13, 1982

*Referred to the  
City Manager*

*Report to the City Manager  
9/14/82*