



# City of Cambridge

10.  
Amended Order  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
March 1, 1999

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
MAYOR DUEHAY  
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: A recent edition of the Boston Globe ran an article regarding the City of Lawrence's effort to purchase land in adjacent communities to build affordable housing for low and moderate income people (as outlined in the attachment) and provide for additional open space for the benefit of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: This is an interesting premise that may be worth exploring to house those unfortunate residents of our city who are being "priced out" of their dwellings; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department to explore this possibility, and determine whether it would be beneficial to Cambridge, and if eligibility could be limited to Cambridge residents and to report back to the City Council on this matter.

In City Council March 1, 1999.  
Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

# Next door, Lawrence sees room to grow

By Caroline Louise Cole  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

LAWRENCE - After many frustrating years of watching cities build blocks of low-income apartments, while nearby suburbs remained enclaves of affluence, Lawrence's housing agency has quietly organized a new building plan for federally subsidized housing - next door in Andover, North Andover, and Methuen.

It plans to buy parcels of land in those

## Low-income housing plan eyes suburbs

towns and build on them.

The move - the first time in state history a municipality has sought to build affordable housing outside its borders - threatens to open a new front in the longstanding "anti-snob" zoning battles between urban and suburban residents in Massachusetts.

"It simply isn't fair," declared Law-

rence Housing Authority Executive Director Domenic O'Neill, "that our affluent neighbors continue to ignore the need for housing within their own towns for those at all income levels."

But such arguments quickly run into heavy resistance from suburban homeowners.

"It's hard to get public housing in a

town like Methuen," said Methuen city councilor Ronnie Ford. "Even when we've tried, we've faced resistance."

Now, Lawrence has moved from argument to action. Last year, the housing authority established a nonprofit corporation, the Essex Housing Partnership, which is authorized to develop housing anywhere in the state. Organizers are patching together a mix of private investment, federal rental subsidies, tax credits,

HOUSING, Page B6

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# Lawrence may build housing next door

## ■ HOUSING

Continued from Page B1

and other development financing tools to fund the housing.

Already, O'Neill said, the partnership is negotiating to purchase several parcels in the tree-filled suburbs that surround Lawrence, and he expects to break ground by June. He envisions several 8- to 10-unit developments of duplexes or three-family dwellings.

"We're not talking about 200-unit complexes though certainly there is that level of need," O'Neill said.

One attractive spot is a parcel the city already owns in North Andover, adjacent to Lawrence Municipal Airport, O'Neill said.

North Andover Selectman William Duffy said he does not oppose Lawrence's plans in North Andover, as long as they do not result in the kind of infamous high-density, high-rise buildings that attract crime and dysfunction in the nation's big cities.

"I don't think it is fair to say North Andover is against affordable housing," said Duffy. He said the town accepted a large subsidized complex built by the Catholic Archdiocese in the mid-1980's and has "several less expensive rental duplexes in our downtown."

But the Archdiocese's Wood Ridge project sparked controversy when it was proposed, and even today residents of the complex say their children feel ostracized in schools.

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The debate over affordable housing in suburbs is nearly as old as the concept of suburban living, say many housing specialists.

"Urban areas naturally attract lower-income people because that is where the services are and that's where there is a superior public transportation network," said Tara Frier, a spokesman for the state Division of Housing and Community Development.

In 1969, the Legislature attempted to spur communities to build more lower income housing. Private developers were granted the right to by-pass local zoning laws and get state permission to build affordable multi-family complexes. For communities in which at least 10 percent of housing is in the "affordable" category, normal zoning rules apply.

But O'Neill said that regulation and others market-based measures have largely failed.

Only 21 of the state's 351 communities meet the 10 percent threshold, Frier said.

North Andover town manager Robert Halpin said he could not predict whether Lawrence's plans would be controversial. However, he criticized the housing authority for failing to present the plan, which he learned of in a newspaper report yesterday, to North Andover officials.

"That's kind of a foolish way to proceed," said Halpin. "North Andover has made an aggressive attempt to deal with the affordable housing issue."

That's not how it looks from downtown Lawrence. "Our neighboring towns can boast they manage several hundred units of subsidized housing, but when you look beyond the numbers what you find is that these families are actually living in Lawrence," O'Neill said.

The little affordable housing that does exist in towns neighboring Lawrence, he said, is well out of reach of moderate wage earners.

"If low-income people want to live here, that's fine," O'Neill said. "but we think they should have the opportunity for trees and open spaces too."

If Lawrence's plan works, more people could soon have that choice.



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Original Order  
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March 1, 1999

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me 2/22/99@  
8:30pm next week!  
Councillor Russell  
10 ✓  
WITH ATTACHMENT!

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Resolved: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the CD Department to explore this possibility, and determine whether it would be beneficial to Cambridge and ~~if possible~~ ~~Cambridge residents~~ if eligibility could be limited to Cambridge residents - report back to City Council

(attachment)

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# Next door, Lawrence sees room to grow

By Caroline Louise Cole  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

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The move - the first time in state history a municipality has sought to build affordable housing outside its borders - threatens to open a new front in the longstanding "anti-snob" zoning battles between urban and suburban residents in Massachusetts.

"It simply isn't fair," declared Law-

rence Housing Authority Executive Director Domenic O'Neill, "that our affluent neighbors continue to ignore the need for housing within their own towns for those at all income levels."

But such arguments quickly run into heavy resistance from suburban homeowners.

"It's hard to get public housing in a

town like Methuen," said Methuen city councilor Ronnie Ford. "Even when we've tried, we've faced resistance."

Now, Lawrence has moved from argument to action. Last year, the housing authority established a nonprofit corporation, the Essex Housing Partnership, which is authorized to develop housing anywhere in the state. Organizers are patching together a mix of private investment, federal rental subsidies, tax credits,

HOUSING, Page B6

# Lawrence may build housing next door

## ■ HOUSING

Continued from Page B1

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Already, O'Neill said, the partnership is negotiating to purchase several parcels in the tree-filled suburbs that surround Lawrence, and he expects to break ground by June. He envisions several 8- to 10-unit developments of duplexes or three-family dwellings.

"We're not talking about 200-unit complexes though certainly there is that level of need," O'Neill said.

One attractive spot is a parcel the city already owns in North Andover, adjacent to Lawrence Municipal Airport, O'Neill said.

North Andover Selectman William Duffy said he does not oppose Lawrence's plans in North Andover, as long as they do not result in the kind of infamous high-density, high-rise buildings that attract crime and dysfunction in the nation's big cities.

"I don't think it is fair to say North Andover is against affordable housing," said Duffy. He said the town accepted a large subsidized complex built by the Catholic Archdiocese in the mid-1980's and has "several less expensive rental duplexes in our downtown."

But the Archdiocese's Wood Ridge project sparked controversy when it was proposed, and even today residents of the complex say their children feel ostracized in schools.

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The debate over affordable housing in suburbs is nearly as old as the concept of suburban living, say many housing specialists.

"Urban areas naturally attract lower-income people because that is where the services are and that's where there is a superior public transportation network," said Tara Frier, a spokesman for the state Division of Housing and Community Development.

In 1969, the Legislature attempted to spur communities to build more lower income housing. Private developers were granted the right to by-pass local zoning laws and get state permission to build affordable multi-family complexes. For communities in which at least 10 percent of housing is in the "affordable" category, normal zoning rules apply.

But O'Neill said that regulation and others market-based measures have largely failed.

Only 21 of the state's 351 communities meet the 10 percent threshold, Frier said.

North Andover town manager Robert Halpin said he could not predict whether Lawrence's plans would be controversial. However, he criticized the housing authority for failing to present the plan, which he learned of in a newspaper report yesterday, to North Andover officials.

"That's kind of a foolish way to proceed," said Halpin. "North Andover has made an aggressive attempt to deal with the affordable housing issue."

That's not how it looks from downtown Lawrence. "Our neighbor towns can boast they manage several hundred units of subsidized housing, but when you look beyond the numbers what you find is that these families are actually living in Lawrence," O'Neill said.

The little affordable housing that does exist in towns neighboring Lawrence, he said, is well out of reach of moderate wage earners.

"If low-income people want to live here, that's fine," O'Neill said, "but we think they should have the opportunity for trees and open spaces too."

If Lawrence's plan works, more people could soon have that choice.

# Next door, Lawrence sees room to grow

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

## Low-income housing plan eyes suburbs

**LAWRENCE** — After many frustrating years of watching cities build blocks of low-income apartments, while nearby suburbs remained enclaves of affluence, Lawrence's housing agency has quietly organized a new building plan for federally subsidized housing — next door in Andover, North Andover, and Methuen.

It plans to buy parcels of land in those towns and build on them.

The move — the first time in state history a municipality has sought to build affordable housing outside its borders — drew plans to open a new front in the long-standing "anti-snob" zoning battles between urban and suburban residents in Massachusetts.

"It simply isn't fair," declared Lawrence Housing Authority Executive Director Domenic O'Neill, "that our affluent neighbors continue to ignore the need for housing within their own towns for those at all income levels."

But such arguments quickly run into heavy resistance from suburban homeowners.

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HOUSING, Page 7

## Andrew A. Athy, 77

Worcester funeral home director

Andrew A. Athy, a Worcester funeral director for 50 years, died Wednesday in Memorial Hospital in Worcester. He was 77.

Mr. Athy and his late brother, James, built the Athy Memorial Funeral Home on Lancaster Street in Worcester in 1957. The business was founded by Mr. Athy's great-grandfather in 1875.

A native of Worcester, he graduated from Holy Cross College and served in the Navy during World War II.

He was the former chairman of the Worcester Parks and Recreation Commission and a member of the city's license commission and the Worcester County Retirement Board. He was a coproprietor of St. Vincent's Hospital and Bay State Savings Bank.

He leaves his wife, Mary F. (Murphy); two sons, Andrew Jr. of Washington, D.C., and Anthony of Worcester; four daughters, Mari-beth Belsito of Worcester, Paula A. Lyons of Boston, and Susan and Aileen, both of Alexandria, Va.; three sisters, Mary T. O'Brien of Scranton, Pa., Elizabeth A. Peterson of South Harwich, and Janet A. Schuemarker of Cheshire, Conn.; and 10 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Monday in St. Joan of Arc Church in Worcester. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery in Worcester.

## Dover man guilty in Net courting of Calif. 'boy'

A Dover man was convicted yesterday in California of traveling across state lines with the intent to have sex with a 13-year-old boy he met over the Internet, authorities said.

The "boy" turned out to be an undercover police officer.

Kenneth Jay Seaman, 59, a retired attorney, approached the officer in a chat room "with a suggestive title," said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in central California.

"We did not approach him," Mrozek said. "Mr. Seaman approached the undercover agent."

For about three months this past fall, Seaman courted the officer who posed as a 13-year-old boy through several sexually explicit e-mails, Mrozek said.

In November Seaman flew from Boston to San Diego, rented a car, and drove to Long Beach, just south of Los Angeles, Mrozek said.

He was arrested in a park in Long Beach where he had arranged to meet with the person he thought was a teenage boy.

After a four-day trial, he was convicted of two felonies: interstate travel with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, and using an interstate commerce facility to induce a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity.

MATTHEW FALCONER

## Firm to pay \$1m over ankle injury

SALEM — A Pennsylvania man has landed a whale of a settlement to make up for the broken ankle he suffered on a sightseeing cruise.

The East India Cruise Co. agreed to pay nearly \$1 million to Dave McMyne, 29, who was on one of its whale-watching vessels when he lost his balance, fell, and fractured his ankle in October 1995.

McMyne had claimed the boat he was on should never have sailed that day because marine forecasters had warned of high winds and choppy seas. (AP)

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### HOUSING

Continued from Page B1

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America is a lack of diversity. As many scholars and theologians have noted, weekend worship services remain one of the most segregated segments of American society.

It is still rare to walk into a house of worship and find an audience that even remotely reflects the country's growing diversity.

But there is at least one small exception to this trend - worshippers in the Bahá'í faith, a religion founded in Iran in the 19th century that now has nearly 6 million practitioners worldwide.

In the Boston area, 1,500 Bahá'ís are a veritable United Nations of the faithful - African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latinos, and immigrants from China, Japan, Cambodia, Iran, India, and Italy.

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## COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

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**WHEREAS:** This is an interesting premise that may be worth exploring to house those unfortunate residents of our city who are being "priced out" of their dwellings; now therefore be it

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Community Development Department to explore this possibility, and determine whether it would be beneficial to Cambridge, and if eligibility could be limited to Cambridge residents and to report back to the City Council on this matter.

Consent Order #10

96 CM

Councillor Russell re: report on the possibility of whether it would be beneficial to Cambridge to purchase land in adjacent communities to build affordable housing for low and moderate income people.

In City Council March 1, 1999

PLACED ON FILE  
**ORDER ADOPTED**

*As Amended,*