



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Date October 9, 1990

From Board of Election Commissioners *TS*
Subject Absentee Ballots for 700 Huron Ave.

Reference Council Order #5,
9/24/90

Attached is a report documenting the sequence of events from the day when absentee ballot applications were received in the Election Commission office for 14 residents at 700 Huron Avenue and the present time.

The Board of Commissioners wishes to go on record as registering its dissatisfaction with the results of the Post Office's internal investigation.

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

EDWARD J. SAMP, JR.
SONDRA SCHEIR
ARTIS B. SPEARS
DARLEEN GONDOLA BONISLAWSKI
Commissioners

TERESA S. NEIGHBOR
Executive Director

REPORT ON MISSING ABSENTEE BALLOTS FROM 700 HURON AVE.

Sequence of events

1. On Wednesday, September 12, 1990, 15 absentee ballot applications (list of voters' names attached) were personally delivered to the Election Commission by Councilor Sheila Russell and were immediately processed.
2. On Thursday morning, September 13, 1990, the ballots for the voters in question were delivered to a staff member of the Post Office by Philip Griffiths, Assistant Director of the Election Commission. (Donald Iarrabino, the supervisor to whom he ordinarily hands the ballots personally, was not on the premises, but assurances were given that he would receive them as soon as he returned.)
3. On Monday, September 17 Councilor Russell called the Election Commission to inform us that the ballots had not been received. The voters at 700 Huron Ave. also inquired of the mail carrier for the route, Mr. Bradley, as to the whereabouts of the ballots. He responded that he had not seen them and reported the situation to Mr. Iarrabino who instituted a search for them. The ballots were nowhere to be found.
4. On Tuesday, September 18, there was still no information as to the ballots whereabouts.
5. On Saturday, September 22, the package of absentee ballots, still bound together by a rubber band, was discovered in the Carrier Throwback Case at the Clerk's desk at the Post Office. Mr. Iarrabino was unable to ascertain where they had come from.
6. On Monday, September 24, Mr. Iarrabino returned the ballots to the Election Commission office, and informed us that an internal investigation was being conducted by the Post Office and that the results of that investigation would be communicated to us as soon as they were known.

7. On Thursday, September 27, Teresa Neighbor, Executive Director of the Election Commission, reported what had transpired to date to the Board of Commissioners and was directed by the Board to investigate further with the Post Office.
8. On Tuesday, October 2, the Executive Director had an extended conversation with Michael Allen, Superintendent of the Post Office, regarding the seriousness of the incident which resulted in the absentee ballot applicants having being disenfranchised. Mr. Allen claims that the investigation will continue, but to date no further information is forthcoming.

He suggested two possibilities:

1. that the ballots were sent to the Boston Branch in error and that they were subsequently returned to the Cambridge Branch, whereupon they were placed in the throwback case by a person as yet unknown.
2. that a person unknown might have hidden the ballots and later replaced them in the carrier's throwback case.

Submitted by:

Teresa S. Neighbor
Teresa S. Neighbor, Executive
Director, Election Commission



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

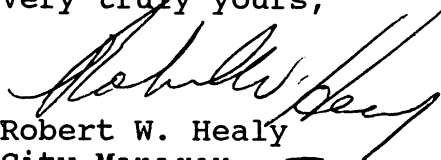
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 15, 1990

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #73 of September 24, 1990 regarding the Central Square Post Office and the missing absentee ballots, attached is a report from Teresa Neighbor, Director of the Election Commission.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Agenda # 11

S-984

Awaiting Report Item Number 73, regarding
the Central Square Post Office and miss-
ing absentee ballots.

In City Council,

October 15, 1990

Placed on file