



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9017

JOSEPH E. CONNARTON
CITY CLERK

JOHN E. FLYNN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

March 1, 1990

Ms. Joann M. Regan
12 Greenview Street
Apt. 12
Framingham, MA 01701

Dear Ms. Regan:

Please be advised that pursuant to your communication to the Cambridge City Council dated January 3, 1990, the City Council requested a response from Mr. Wuenschel, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority.

I am enclosing a copy of said response for your review.

I hope that you will find said response satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

JEC/dl

Enc. (1)



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1990 FEB 15 PM 12:45

CAMBRIDGE MA.

February 13, 1990

Mr. Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

This letter is in response to Communication #9 of January 22, 1990, concerning Joann Regan's application for public housing with the Cambridge Housing Authority.

When Ms. Regan was contacted on August 23, 1989 to begin the screening process for a one bedroom apartment, she was number 22 on the one bedroom State public housing list. Although a resident of Stoneham and not Cambridge, her position on our State public housing list was greatly improved by her deceased husband's veteran status. For the purposes of this complaint, it is important to note that Cambridge residents with a Veteran Preference have a higher priority than non-residents with a Veteran Preference on the State public housing wait list.

Consequently, as each Cambridge resident with a Veteran Preference submits an application to the Cambridge Housing Authority, Ms. Regan's position on the wait list is delayed by one number. Although she was number 22 on the list in August of 1989 and was being screened for placement, subsequent applications from Cambridge residents with Veteran Preference have pushed her further from the top of the wait list. At present, her application is number 40 on the one bedroom State housing list.

I regret that complicated tiering of this wait list, which is promulgated by the Executive Office of Communities and Development, causes some applicants to have false expectations. However, I am certain that Cambridge City Council members appreciate that the Cambridge Housing Authority offers Cambridge residents a higher priority than applicants who are not residents of Cambridge.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Wuenschel
Executive Director

DJW/dp



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JOSEPH E. CONNARTON
CITY CLERK

JOHN E. FLYNN
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

January 25, 1990

TO: Daniel Wuenschel
Executive Director
Cambridge Housing Authority

FROM: Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

SUBJECT: Communication # 9 of January 22, 1990

Please be advised that the City Council received the enclosed communication from Ms. Joann M. Regan, a former Cambridge resident, relative to allegations against the Housing Authority.

The City Council, on a motion to Councillor Duehay, has referred this to you with a request that you prepare a response for them.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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1990 JAN -8 AM 11:44

CAMBRIDGE MA.

January 3, 1990 -

Dear Cambridge City Council Members,

At least 18 months ago, I applied to the Cambridge Housing Authority for subsidized housing. I was assured by mail that I did indeed qualify for housing assistance in Cambridge but that it would be at least 6 years before I could hope for an apartment.

Some months later, my next communication from the Cambridge Housing Authority, was a form letter saying, in effect, "golly, we're sorry everything has been so mixed up at the Cambridge Housing Authority but we're free now." I wish I had saved that letter. It proved to be painfully true!

In August, 1989, I received a letter

from Eric La Fontant of the Cambridge Housing Authority telling me that my name was nearing the top of the list for one bedroom apartments.

He sent me an appointment time to come in to see him and, being forewarned by the letter, that if I didn't keep the appointment, I'd forfeit my place on the list.

I met with Mr. La Fontant at his office. He gave me various forms to fill out (bank records etc). I asked Mr. La Fontant how long I could expect to wait for an apartment. He told me that, as soon as the information he had asked me for, checked it - it would be "a matter" of weeks.

Two months later, I called Mr. La Fontant and asked him the status of my application.

Mr. La Fontant told me that there
 weren't any one room apartments with the potential
 for rental through the Cambridge Housing Authority
 before September - by November - or, in the
 foreseeable future.

What gives Mr. La Fontant and
 others who are in positions of dispensing
 social services to others, the right to "play
 God", to build up people's hopes and
 dash them again?

I can tell you - as you know - and
 he knows - and whoever else plays that
 disgusting little game - , no one has the
 right to abuse others emotionally.

My housing problem has
 been solved so I am not asking for myself.
 I ask you, for others still looking for

help from the Cambridge Housing Authority,
please don't sweep irregularity under the
rug in this very important section of the
Cambridge city government.

Sincerely yours

Joann M. Regan

12 Greenview St. Apt. 12
Frammingham, MA 01701

PS my address as of
last year and September, particularly was:
450 William St
Dorham, MA 02180

1 of 4

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

January 3, 1990 -

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Some months later, my next communication from the Cambridge Housing Authority, was a form letter saying, in effect, "golly, we're sorry everything has been so mixed up at the Cambridge Housing Authority but we're free now." I wish I had saved that letter. It proved to be painfully true!

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from Ernie La Fontant of the Cambridge Housing Authority telling me that my name was nearing the top of the list for one bedroom apartments.

He sent me an appointment time to come in to see him and, being forewarned by the letter, that if I didn't keep the appointment, I'd forfeit my place on the list,

I met with Mr. La Fontant at his office. He gave me various forms to fill out (bank records etc). I asked Mr. La Fontant how long I could expect to wait for an apartment. He told me that, as soon as the information he had asked me for, checked it - it would be "a matter" of weeks.

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3 of 24

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What gives Mr La Fontant and others who are in positions of dispensing social services to others, the right to "play God", to build up people's hopes and dash them again?

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Dorham, MA 02180

9.

3-51

Comm. from Joann M. Regan, 12 Greeview St.,
Framingham, MA relative to irregularities
she experienced with the Cambridge Housing
Authority.

In City Council,

January 22, 1990

*Referred to the Cambridge
Housing Authority
Director for report.
Letter sent to Housing
Authority 1/24/90 @*