



10
8 October 1994, 54 Fayette St. Cambridge Ma. 02139

To Letter to Editor, Cambridge City COUNCIL
Subject: Vandalism, Cambridge style

This past week's vandalism on "Yes on 9" lawn signs within a two block area of Mid Cambridge seems to have eluded the news media. This vandalism is minor when compared to the official "vandalism" of the housing infrastructure inflicted by the democratically elected City Council and the appointed quasi-judicial Rent Control Board. The 4 year abandoned early 20th century double three decker of 317 Prospect St. at mid-Cambridge's edge is an example of this kind of "vandalism."

The official "vandalism" is a result of irrational (no relationship to value or small property upkeep requirements) legal rents set at 1/3 to 1/2 of nearby blue collar Somerville. It provides a mostly (more than 80%) well off, non means tested, well educated, well organized, "entitled" constituency with a means of evading their equitable contribution to real estate taxes and cheap, significantly below market, rents.

The large property owners of Cambridge have offered the city (2 Oct. 94 council meeting) a two year commitment to assist with low, moderate, and fixed income families or elderly on passage of "9". The city should be responsible and prepare for this eventuality by identifying and sizing this fragile part of our population and begin negotiations with the large owners now.

The encouragement of the occupation of two bedroom apartments at significantly below market rents in the most desirable sections of the city by single professional bachelor graduates of elite universities is clearly inefficient and unjustified public housing policy.

Sincerely



Arnold Schutzberg, 868-8190

CAMBRIDGE MA.

1994 OCT 12 AM 9:45

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Consent Comm. # 10 S-429

Comm. from Arnold Schutzberg, 54 Fayette
Street, regarding the eventuality if
Question Nine passes.

In City Council,

October 17, 1994

Placed on file