

864-2836

January 22, 1976
65 Stearns St

Cambridge

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

To whom it May Concern: My wife, age 72, and myself, age 80, have owned a house located at 65 Stearns Street. Cambridge for more than 40 years.

During this period of time we have never experienced water in our cellar until Dec 11, 1974 at which time a hydrant located on the corner of Stearns St and Newell-Sprung a leak. At that time we had about 1 ft of water in the cellar caused by a break in the City's water system. The break was repaired in very short order & we suffered some damage but decided that as long as it was minor we did nothing about the matter.

However, this year on Dec. 26, 1975 I discovered in the morning I again had about 16 inches of water in the cellar. The matter was reported to the water dept. and

after a delay of 3 weeks, Jan 14, 1976 to be exact the leak was located & repaired. During this time my wife & I were without heat most of the time & without hot water the entire time. I purchased a sump pump in an effort to control the water but the flow into the cellar was more than the pump could handle. In an effort to get heat in the house the oil company (Fawcett of Cambridge) installed a new transformer as the original one was ruined due to the high water. The water was controlled for a short period of time, about 48 hours, and as the water increased the new transformer was also ruined. Consequently we were without heat until the leak was finally repaired & at that time another new transformer was installed.

My purpose in this letter is to advise I have contacted my Insurance Co and they have advised that in as much as the leak was from a city water main they have no liability.

I would request that in as much as we have experienced considerable expense as well as discomfort that your Counsel would consider reimbursing us for the expense of the transformers + pump. There has been considerable damage to the Cellar and items stored there - but my primary request is for the money it was necessary for us to expend through no fault of ours.

Your kind consideration + attention will be appreciated -

I am yours truly

John Hyde

(Please see over)

2 transformers @ 29.23	=	\$ 58.46
1 sump pump	89.75	89.75
		148.21

Mr. John Hyde
65 Stearns Street
Cambridge Mass
02138

City of Cambridge

5. S-22
Comm. from John Hyde requesting reimbursement
for damages done to his cellar due to a leaking
fire hydrant.

In City Council,
Jan. 26, 1976

1/24/76
Referred to the
City Manager -
Copy sent to manager
2/9/76 dl