



ROBERT H. QUINN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE HOUSE BOSTON 02133

RECEIVED BY
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MAY 7 4 20 PM '71
MAY 6, 1971
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

I have your letter of May 5, 1971, addressed to Attorney General Quinn, enclosing a copy of an order of the City Council requesting an opinion of the Attorney General as to whether the Council has the power to change from a Rent Control Administrator to a Rent Control Board under the provisions of the Acts of 1970, Chapter 842.

I regret to advise that the Attorney General has no statutory authority to advise municipal officials on questions arising in the performance of their official duties. The Attorney General's power to render legal opinions is confined to constitutional officers and heads of state agencies. On questions such as the one posed by the City Council, the opinion of the City Solicitor is final and binding on the Council. I note that the City Solicitor has already rendered an opinion, and, thus, submission of the question to him is unnecessary.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Walter H. Mayo III".

WALTER H. MAYO III

Assistant Attorney General
Chief, Administrative Division

WHM:AMJ

cc:
Philip M. Cronin, Esq.
City Solicitor

Communication from Robert H. Quinn, Atty.
General, pursuant to an order adopted by the
City Council on May 3, 1971 requesting an
opinion as to whether the Council has the
power to change from a Rent Control Adminis-
trator to a Rent Control Board

May 10, 1971

Placed on File

Copies to all Councilors