



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

96 DEC -9 PM 2:00

CAMBRIDGE MA.

MARGOT P. KOSBERG,
Executive Director

December 4, 1996

Dear City Councilors:

As Commissioners of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission, we are deeply concerned about the plight of soon to be displaced Cambridge tenants facing the final demise of rent control. We strongly support the efforts of the City Council and City Manager to persuade Cambridge landlords not to raise rents. We see this effort, not as a legal obligation, but as a moral and ethical obligation. We believe that the city must do all it can to preserve the great diversity which enriches all of us.

While larger landlords may be willing to make adjustments, we are concerned about the tenants of smaller landlords. We believe that the city must do more than appeal to their good will. Protecting the needy should fall upon the shoulders of everyone in the city, not just the small landlords. As such, we would urge the City Council to provide financial incentives, including real estate tax abatements, to those landlords who choose not to raise rents. Cambridge is at a crossroads. Unless immediate action is taken, we fear the "soul" of Cambridge will forever be changed at a great detriment to all.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darlene Nicgorski
Darlene Nicgorski, Chair

Graciela Hopkins
Bob Wrex
Cooper Thompson
Mercedes S. Evans
Nilgun Gokgur
Anne S. Watt

Chairperson:
Darlene Nicgorski

Vice Chairperson:

Commissioners:

Vernon Carter
Mercedes S. Evans
Jeanne M. Fong

Nilgun Gokgur
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Anthony Pelino

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Consent Communication #11 5-632

Communication was received from the
Cambridge Human Rights Commission,
transmitting their strong support of the efforts of the
City Council and City Manager to persuade
Cambridge landlords not to raise rents.

In City Council December 16, 1996

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