

3 Crawford Street #8
Cambridge, MA, 02139
May 7, 1998

RECEIVED BY
CITY CLERK
MAY -7 PM 4:48
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Cambridge City Council
City Hall, Cambridge, 02139

To the City Council:

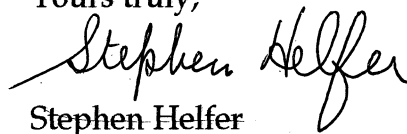
I am disappointed that the Council, with almost no public discussion or comment, made it against the law to smoke in Cambridge parks.

I have lived and worked in Cambridge for 20 years and since 1995 owned the apartment in which I live. I have tried to be a good citizen by obeying the law, paying taxes, doing some volunteer work, as well as by participating in local elections, preservation efforts, and events like the Central Square World's Fair. I am now told that if I wish to enjoy a cigarette outside in a public park I will be subject to a fine. The City Council, by passing such a law, has devalued my citizenship as well as that of many Cambridge residents.

Councilor Toomey stated that this anti-smoking law will discourage young persons from taking up the habit. According to public health officials, however, despite many anti-smoking measures aimed at them, more and more youth are smoking. There is, indeed, evidence that the increase in youth smoking may be not despite of, but in part, because of the abundance of such anti-smoking measures. The Council, therefore, by outlawing smoking in Cambridge parks, inadvertently may be contributing to an increase in the habit among the young.

General Washington, who incidentally was a tobacco grower, in Cambridge Common, took command of the colonial army to support and protect American liberty. It is a shame that two hundred years later a citizen who wishes to smoke a cigarette in this historic place will be breaking the law.

Yours truly,


Stephen Helfer

Consent Communication #15

3455

A communication was received from Stephen Helfer, transmitting a letter of his disappointment with the laws prohibiting smoking in Cambridge parks.

In City Council May 11, 1998

PLACED ON FILE