

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

APR 13 2 50 PM '81

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

March 31, 1981

Hon. Frank Duehay, Mayor
City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mayor Duehay:

We request that you introduce this petition into the City Council at the earliest possible opportunity so as to put a stop to plans for a park on Cherry Street. It is not wanted.

After years of abandonment by Polaroid, which despite its size and influence in this city was either unable or unwilling to put a stop to the crime, housebreaks, drugs & stolen car operations which operated from this protected location, plans are being made to open this site to the "public" now that the city is the owner. It is insanity. However well meaning the professional people were who from their sheltered planning environment have advocated for this project, they are wrong. We are sure that when presented with this overwhelming statement of opposition that both the City Manager and his Assistant for Community Development will display the same sensitivity they have in the past and will revise the city's intentions. City executives have been inaccurately advised as to our sentiments about this project. Anyone who says we were consulted is misrepresenting the facts. Check a map of the block. We are the abutters !

All of us are willing to work with the city in formulating a plan for ~~the~~ space which makes both economic and social sense. The city must plan with us not against us. Remember the majority of us signing this petition are paying taxes to the city. Not one of us is in arrears either. Not one of us has been listed in the lengthy tabulation of proposed "Tax Takings" which have appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle. As our petition states, we are the survivors. We have not put up with the litany of social problems which plagued this locale for the last seven years to have the city return this and other open spaces in this neighborhood to those who have no regard for the simple, ordinary rules of society. If you do, it will surely be a victory for all that is evil in life.

Sincerely,

THE PETITIONERS

In response to recently announced plans of city government suggesting that an active recreational area be constructed on Cherry Street on land formerly owned by the Polaroid Corp., and once used by them as an employee parking facility we, the undersigned, proximate residents to the area in question, homeowners, and taxpayers, recognizing that the city has purchased this distressed property from Polaroid after the company had essentially abandoned it to uses which existing records at the Cambridge Police Department attest, petition the city through the involved agencies, principally the Community Development Department, to cease in this elitist madness and to make the property available for a use which will reinforce the surrounding residential uses, as opposed to building another magnet for neighborhood deterioration, another womb to nurture crime, and a project which arrogantly avoids the realities of Proposition 2½ at a time when existing recreational facilities and programs are faced with cutbacks and local municipal administrators wonder at their ability to meet payroll costs for the very police force which would be diverted to handle the crises which would soon appear again on Cherry Street if the proposed park is constructed. (From that comment don't think it's heaven now!)

It is a time to rejuvenate our neighborhood, not to undertake projects which will condemn it to continuing bombardment from negative societal forces, forces which would see this park an invitation.

We who have survived, who did not abandon this neighborhood, and, especially, this block, when others fled or looked the other way in apathy or fear, ask for a future life here. We ask that housing be constructed, housing of the sort advanced as an alternative option by staff of Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., or some such similar, but low density, housing. In short, we petition that the land be made available to construct homes which will serve to strenghten the fabric of neighborhood life. Existing facilities such as Sennott Park and the planned Columbia /Pine Sts. Park, more than adequately respond to active recreational space needs of the community.

March 1981

NAME	ADDRESS
Merle Breunington	128 Cherry ST Camb. Ma.
Esther Hewitt	" " Camb. Ma.
Cecile Jones	270 Washington St Camb. Ma.
Vera R. Coy	137 Cherry Street Camb. Mass.
Addison Borell	139 Cherry St. Camb. Ma.
Moris Douglas	176 Harvard St " Camb. Ma.
Robert I. Dreyer	" " Camb. Ma.
Edward Chin	176 Harvard St, Camb., Mass.
Stephanie	177 Harvard St Camb. mass
Frances R. Fisher	181 Harvard St. Camb. Mass
Edward Mansbach	174 HARVARD ST CAMB MASS
J. Loeber	174 Harvard St Camb. Mass

P E T I T I O N

2013

In response to recently announced plans of city government suggesting that an active recreational area be constructed on Cherry Street on land formerly owned by the Polaroid Corp., and once used by them as an employee parking facility we, the undersigned, proximate residents to the area in question, homeowners, and taxpayers, recognizing that the city has purchased this distressed property from Polaroid after the company had essentially abandoned it to uses which existing records at the Cambridge Police Department attest, petition the city through the involved agencies, principally the Community Development Department, to cease in this elitist madness and to make the property available for a use which will reinforce the surrounding residential uses, as opposed to building another magnet for neighborhood deterioration, another womb to nurture crime, and a project which arrogantly avoids the realities of Proposition 2½ at a time when existing recreational facilities and programs are faced with cutbacks and local municipal administrators wonder at their ability to meet payroll costs for the very police force which would be diverted to handle the crises which would soon appear again on Cherry Street if the proposed park is constructed. (From that comment don't think it's heaven now!)

It is a time to rejuvenate our neighborhood, not to undertake projects which will condemn it to continuing bombardment from negative societal forces, forces which would see this park an invitation.

We who have survived, who did not abandon this neighborhood, and, especially, this block, when others fled or looked the other way in apathy or fear, ask for a future life here. We ask that housing be constructed, housing of the sort advanced as an alternative option by staff of Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., or some such similar, but low density, housing. In short, we petition that the land be made available to construct homes which will serve to strenghten the fabric of neighborhood life. Existing facilities such as Sennott Park and the planned Columbia /Pine Sts. Park, more than adequately respond to active recreational space needs of the community.

March 1981

NAME

ADDRESS

Barbara Hayes	170 Harvard St	Camb. Ma
Cathy Burke	168 Harvard St	Camb. Ma
Ronald Burke	" "	Camb. Ma
Marathy Santiago	168 Harvard Street	Camb. Ma
James W. Thornhill	189 Windsor St	
Mrs Thornhill	189 Windsor St	Camb. Ma
R. L. Harrod	181 Windsor St	Camb. Ma
Gladys Hill	"	Camb. Ma
Barbara Montout	177 Windsor St	Camb. Ma
Mary Becker	167 Windsor St	Camb. Ma
Clare Apple	104 Cherry St	Camb. Ma
Carl Braden	116 Cherry St.	

P E T I T I O N

3083

In response to recently announced plans of city government suggesting that an active recreational area be constructed on Cherry Street on land formerly owned by the Polaroid Corp., and once used by them as an employee parking facility we, the undersigned, proximate residents to the area in question, homeowners, and taxpayers, recognizing that the city has purchased this distressed property from Polaroid after the company had essentially abandoned it to uses which existing records at the Cambridge Police Department attest, petition the city through the involved agencies, principally the Community Development Department, to cease in this elitist madness and to make the property available for a use which will reinforce the surrounding residential uses, as opposed to building another magnet for neighborhood deterioration, another womb to nurture crime, and a project which arrogantly avoids the realities of Proposition 2½ at a time when existing recreational facilities and programs are faced with cutbacks and local municipal administrators wonder at their ability to meet payroll costs for the very police force which would be diverted to handle the crises which would soon appear again on Cherry Street if the proposed park is constructed. (From that comment don't think it's heaven now!)

It is a time to rejuvenate our neighborhood, not to undertake projects which will condemn it to continuing bombardment from negative societal forces, forces which would see this park an invitation.

We who have survived, who did not abandon this neighborhood, and, especially, this block, when others fled or looked the other way in apathy or fear, ask for a future life here. We ask that housing be constructed, housing of the sort advanced as an alternative option by staff of Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., or some such similar, but low density, housing. In short, we petition that the land be made available to construct homes which will serve to strengthen the fabric of neighborhood life. Existing facilities such as Sennott Park and the planned Columbia /Pine Sts. Park, more than adequately respond to active recreational space needs of the community.

March 1981

NAME

ADDRESS

Everett Harrison 170 Harvard St. Camb. Ma.
Ernest Smith 168 Harvard St. Camb.
Eliza Mallouk 172 Harvard St. Camb.

Comm. from the residents of Cherry Street in
opposition to the plans for a park on Cherry
Street.

In City Council,

June 8, 1981

*Referred to City
manager for Report.
Copy sent to C. mgr 6/10/81
(all)*