

# ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

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May 18, 1995 CAMBRIDGE MA.

The Honorable Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

RE: Proposed Cambridge Employee Residency Requirement

Dear Councilors:

The Alliance for Change wishes to be recorded in favor of Councillor Timothy Toomey's proposed Residency Ordinance. The Alliance applauds Councillor Toomey's courage in taking on this important issue and his prudence in proposing a phased-in ordinance which exempts current employees and allows for further exemptions as approved by the City Council.

Councillor Toomey is correct in suggesting that the presence of a greater percentage of Cambridge residents on the City payroll will enhance the taxpayers' view of the city government. The Alliance believes in government from the bottom up - government of the people, for the people, and by the people - not government at the people. Three thousand non-resident city employees is an extraordinary amount of people. In our estimation, it is too high a number. More than one-half of the City's employees live outside the city - that is a disheartening and, frankly, appalling figure. The members of the Alliance want to be governed by people who have a vested interest in our City. Absent the kind of vital link that residency naturally engenders, government service becomes just another job filled by an individual whose own self-interest will always come before the interests of our city. Absent a shared interest in the Cambridge community, it is certain that there will exist a gulf between the city government and the residents of this city - a gulf filled with distrust and misunderstanding and marked by a distance which reflects just how citizens have come to view the way government operates - from a distance. A taxpayer may not know exactly what the City Auditor does or how he does it but there is some comfort to be had in the fact that the current auditor is a Cambridge resident. A taxpayer may not always agree with the actions of the Police Commissioner but that same taxpayer can have more faith in the current commissioner's commitment to making Cambridge as safe as it can be because he lives here too.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, in addition to those ably detailed by Councillor Toomey, the Alliance for Change supports the adoption of a Cambridge Employee Residency Ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. O'Connell  
Alliance Chair

S-201

Consent Communication #2

Comm was received from Alliance  
for Change re: Residency Requirement.

In City Council June 5, 1995

Referred to the  
petition