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ENOUGH ROOM
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Honorable Cambridge City Council
795 Mass Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

February 6, 2003

Council Committee Hearings

I suggest that the City Council enlarge its scope of information collection and solicitation when conducting hearings. At the Council meeting on Monday February 3, 2003 Councilor Galluccio suggested that the issue of services to persons without residences be referred to the Housing Committee. Further that other City and private agencies who serve that community be invited to explain what services they provide to help address this concern.

It is in the interest of the Council, the City, the Committee and that persons who are the subject of this hearing or hearings be invited to contribute to the input to explain what their concerns and what their needs are. Rather than the perceived needs and concerns of those who earn their living, or actually serve those persons.

The perspective of providers of services differs from those who are served. When the persons being served are vulnerable their ideas, their needs and their wants are usually ignored due to their inferior position among the mainstream society. This is especially true when it comes to mental illness, addictions and other situations of vulnerability. The perspective of bureaucrats is to protect their job. That is not always compatible with the needs of persons without homes.

On Tuesday February 4, 2003 at the Cable Television Committee it was likewise suggested that a subsequent meeting be held where the Directors of the City station and CCTV discuss what broadcast content they could provide to the City with the current budget considerations. Similar to the situation of those unhoused, viewers of these stations have no say about what is broadcast. This is even sometimes done by commercial stations. But the Committee Chair, Councilor Decker, limited the input to those who earn their income providing broadcast content. It may be helpful to learn what Cambridge residents would like to see.

The Chair of that committee along with the City employees were not interested in my comments at the hearing. Though I am a volunteer producer at CCTV all of the City employees (except Councilors Decker and Davis) at that hearing left the Council chamber when public comment was allowed, though I had to request it from the Chair. This shows me that the City employees have their own perspective and are not interested in the desires of City residents. It is a pervasive, arrogant attitude among public officials especially at CCTV.

Roy Bercaw

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Consent Communication #4

A communication was received
from Roy Bercaw, regarding
council committee hearings.

In City Council February 10, 2003

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