

MID-CAMBRIDGE Neighborhood Association

419 Broadway Cambridge Massachusetts 02138 547-8936

June 29, 1980

To: the City Councillors and to James Sullivan, City Manager

Re: The Chimes in Front of City Hall

Art is important to a community. We have written many letters in support of the Arts Council. Art is not a matter of a democratic decisions. Art is an intuition in which artists are primarily involved.

But though artists are primarily involved, there are secondary considerations and maybe other considerations.

The neighborhood accepts the primary judgment of the artistic community through the Arts Council, but the Arts Council has not sought the cooperation of the neighborhood. Our association has had to insist on their accepting community input, not by popular opinion. We have insisted that artists from our community be involved.

There were works of art proposed by the Council for the new library park, for Inman Square, for West St playground, but only reluctantly and with great pressure have we been able to have any input whatsoever.

The Chimes in front of City Hall are the latest example of the Arts Council ignoring the neighborhood association. We would be glad to help the Council find a good spot for them. They are fun and creative and rhythmic even in their visual aspect. We were never consulted and so the tax-payers money, which could have been well used, is now wasted again. City Hall is in our neighborhood and it was presumptuous that we were not consulted...until we received a call from one of our members at 2 Inman Street who had been kept awake for several nights.

We advised him to contact the City Councillors which he did. We particularly want to thank Councillor Walter Sullivan who was sensitive to this neighborhood issue, to Councillor Kevin Crane, both who led a sensible motion to stop the disturbance.

But we would like those Chimes to be used in Mid Cambridge if possible. We would like the Arts Council to consult with the neighborhood. Art is important to the community because it enriches our lives, it stimulates our sensitivity, opens us, in this case, to joy. Let's work together to bring art into our community.

From: Joan Lorentz, presiding officer MCNA

C.C. The Arts Council
Cynthia White, Art Committee, MCNA
Cambridge Chronicle

Comm. from Joan Lorentz, Presiding Officer
of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Assoc.
supporting the Arts Council.

In City Council,

June 30, 1980

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