



City of Cambridge

Calendar Item # 5
AMENDED ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL

April 22, 1991
May 6, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR CYR

- WHEREAS: The attached copy of an April 10, 1991 Globe editorial focuses on a federally initiated federal/state housing bill enacted to assist in the rebuilding of older neighborhoods which requires congressional appropriation of federal funds and an outlay of matching funds on the state level by the Massachusetts Legislature; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge must not be shortchanged so far as being impacted positively that the sharing in these funds could exert in our older neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Legislature is currently considering two Bills, H-2650 and S-452, which would allow the state to issue bonds for the construction of new affordable housing and would provide the matching funds necessary for the Federal HOME Program; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council expresses unanimous support for both the federal and state appropriations required to make this housing bill viable in Massachusetts and in Cambridge and requests that the City Manager direct the Assistant City manager for Community Development to monitor the progress of this legislation closely; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to send a certified copy of this resolution to each member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and to Cambridge's Representatives in both Houses of Massachusetts Legislature on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council May 6, 1991.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy; *Joseph E. Connarton*

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk



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TABLED BY COUNCILLOR CYR

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✓✓ as amended

APR 10 11 13-31 FERRARO & WALSH

control of the purse strings through their sponsor, the mayor. Education policy-making creates enough divisions in the city without building a schism into the very structure of the school committee.

There is a long and honorable tradition in this country of electing lay boards to oversee education. The intrinsic appeal of electing school committee members is obvious, and doubts about the wisdom of an appointed committee are understandable.

But there is an educational crisis in Boston, and the old ways are not producing good results.

Many, members of an appointed committee would be less likely than elected members to be politically ambitious and more likely to focus on the substance of public education, not its politics. That change in orientation is essential if the committee is to perform properly.

The legislation creating the restructured committee would establish a referendum on it in four years. If it doesn't work, the voters will demand further change. We believe, however, that change will not be necessary. An appointed committee provides the best opportunity to bring forceful direction to Boston's public schools.

Saving the neighborhoods

New housing is the key to rebuilding old neighborhoods in Massachusetts. A bill coming before a legislative committee unlock tens of millions of federal dollars for this important task.

Last year, Congress passed a housing bill that would provide \$100 million to Massachusetts. That money still needs to be approved in a separate appropriations vote.

Even with congressional approval, the state will not get \$60 million of the total unless it allots \$18 million in matching funds. A bill to provide that money will come before the Committee on Housing and Urban Development today.

In more prosperous times, the Legislature would approve the money directly, as it did for the housing programs administered by the Department of Communities and Development in the 1980s. Now, because of the recession, it makes better sense to raise the money through bonds, which can be paid off gradually as the economy improves.

Those state programs were responsible for the construction of thousands of units of affordable

housing during the years when money was plentiful. Federal funds are needed to maintain the momentum for these local and state initiatives.

The impact of these programs is best gauged in the older sections of Massachusetts cities. In Dorchester's Codman Square, for instance, housing programs administered by the city Public Facilities Department are responsible for the beginnings of a neighborhood-wide revival.

The old Girls' Latin building has been renovated into a 52-unit apartment complex. Across the street, housing is being blended with storefronts to anchor the most visible commercial block in the square. A short distance away, a collection of vacant lots has been transformed into a 20-unit development of duplex housing.

Although massive state subsidies cannot be provided today, federal matching funds would ensure that innovative programs like those in Codman Square are not starved of cash. A state contribution is essential if the rebuilding of the older neighborhoods of Massachusetts is to continue.



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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

William H. Walsh
City Councillor

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM:

DATE: APRIL 10, 1991

FROM: Personal Office of Councillor William H. Walsh
Athenaeum House
215 First Street
Cambridge, MA. 02142
TELEPHONE: 617 354-3366
FAX NUMBER: 617 876-9331

TO: Joseph E. Conrarton, City Clerk
City Hall, Cambridge, MA. 02139

KINDNESS OF CITY MANAGER'S STAFF

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS PAGE: 3

If you do not receive the number of pages as indicated above,
please telephone immediately.

REMARKS: Councillor Walsh requests that the enclosed Resolution
regarding a federal/state housing appropriation be included
in the CONSENT AGENDA for the Council Session of April 22,
1991.

PLEASE CONFIRM BY PHONE YOUR RECEIPT & FILING OF SAME
Signature of person in Councillor Walsh's office transmitting
the document(s).

Thank you for your attention to this request .

David F. Noonan *DFN*



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Cul # 5

Order # 40

CONSENT

5-590

Councillor Walsh re: housing bill.

In City Council,

April 22, 1991

Tabled by Councillor
Cyr.
5/6/91 Order adopted
as amended.