

1697 Cambridge St., #3
Cambridge, MA 02138
November 18, 1994

City Councilor Michael Sullivan
Cambridge City Hall
FAX: 349-4287

Dear Councilor Sullivan:

I understand that one option being considered in the home rule petition is automatic de-control of 4-6 unit buildings and condominiums, ordinated or otherwise.

Please discard this option. There are so many of us living in these situations -- mainly the ordinated condos -- who would be vulnerable to instant eviction in January. I and my neighbors at 1697-99 Cambridge St. would surely be among the first to go. As an apartment is vacated in my building, teams of carpenters and remodeling experts descend on the unit, refurbishing walls, floors, installing updated fixtures, sinks, among others.

Horried by what I heard took place at yesterday's meeting with Speaker Flaherty, today I made a personal and emotional plea to his aide, Jack Mahoney, that "automatic vacancy decontrol of all rent-controlled units to market rents" be the final option. (We were told at our tenants' meeting last night that automatic decontrol was Flaherty's idea. - Mahoney disabused me of that notion immediately.)

While tenants understandably fear harrassment and other types of landlord retaliation under such a system, I believe this option would prevent the greatest majority of sudden, catastrophic evictions while at the same time satisfying the greatest number of landlords involved. It's good to remember that, as in any university city or town, there is fairly high turnover in rental property. Under this plan, landlords could realize significant decontrol simply by waiting until June.

If this plan is not satisfactory, I implore you to do anything to prevent wholesale displacement of individuals, like me, who have nowhere else to turn.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Macaulay
Anne Macaulay
726-3452; 492-8232

Comm. # 1

S-529
Comm. from Anne Macaulay, 1697 Cambridge
Street, # 3, registering her opposition
to the automatic decontrol of 4-6 unit
buildings and condominiums.

In City Council,

November 19, 1994

11/19/94 No action
taken

11/20/94 Placed on file