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Clara Wainwright 57 Upland Road, Brookline, MA 02146 628-0060, 277-5759

December 15, 1986

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

Dear City Councilors:

As a person active in the Cambridge community, I am writing to express my concern at the imminent eviction of cultural and service groups at 595-605 Massachusetts Avenue and 8-12 Essex Street in Central Square by Mr. J. Shockett. He is receiving federal funding for his project and is therefore required to relocate the present tenants.

The groups involved - American Jiann Shyong Kung Fu Center, Batucada Belles, Cambridge Center for Responsible Research, Centro Presente, Coalition for Basic Human Needs, Coalition to End Animal Suffering, Free Theater Collective, Folk Arts Center, North Atlantic Ballet, Sanchin Women's School of Karate and Self Defense, SANE, Street Magazine, and Sygn Magazine - make a significant contribution to our community, and to the entire metropolitan Boston area, by providing a wide range of cultural and educational activities. Cambridge has always been known for the strength of its international and artistic communities. The present redevelopment of Central Square threatens their existence.

I am most familiar with the Batucada Belles - a 25 member women's parade band, playing carnival music from Brasil and other African derived cultures where community participation is the norm. Batucada Belles have been part of the annual First Night Procession, the Jamaica Plain Wake Up the Earth Festival, the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade, and they played an important part in the recent celebration of Harvard's 350th birthday on the banks of the Charles River. Wherever the Batucada Belles play, audience members become participants. There is no other band like it in Boston or Cambridge. Rehearsal space for such a large outdoor band is hard to come by in the months from September through May. The present location at 595 Massachusetts Avenue is ideal.

I urge your support of the Batucada Belles and the other affected groups in the following ways:

1. Ensure that the Community Development Department find comparable space and location for the next eight years
2. Have either the city or the developer cover moving costs
3. Ensure that the groups are not evicted before alternative space is found

I urge the Cambridge City Council to make the above stipulations part of any agreement

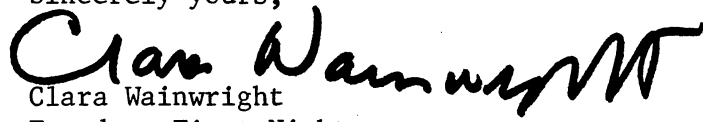
Cambridge City Council

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with Mr. Shockett before the release of any Urban or Community Development Grant monies.

Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,


Clara Wainwright
Founder, First Night

Comm. from Clara Wainwright, Founder, "First Night" expressing concern for the eviction of both cultural & service groups from the premises numbered 595-605 Mass. Ave. & 8-12 Essex St.

In City Council,

December 22, 1986

Placed on file
Copy to all Councilors
Consent to all Councilors re/prop
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