



# City of Cambridge

58.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 15, 1997

VICE MAYOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY  
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: The City recently sent notices to many homeowners notifying them of their obligation to replace their sewer connections because they were "illicitly" connected to storm drains instead of the regular sewer mains; and

WHEREAS: This has caused grave concern amongst those who received such notices; and

WHEREAS: It raises many questions about whose responsibility it is, the City's or the homeowners' to replace these connections; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council with the answers to the following questions:

1. How many property owners were notified that they would be obligated to replace sewer connections? On what streets were these properties located? Approximately when were these buildings erected?
2. How many properties were tested to determine if improper connections existed, and how many more properties does the city plan to test?
3. Is it possible or likely that when these affected buildings were erected, more than 100 years ago, that the only sewer on the street was a combined storm/sewage main (later converted to a storm sewer in a subsequent sewer separation) and that the connections in question today were completely legal and proper at the time of their construction?
4. Can the City force a property owner to correct a non-conforming feature of his or her property when that feature was legal and properly permitted at the time of its construction?


5. How many other communities were affected by the DEP policy which prompted the City to take this action and how are these communities handling the costs of sewer connection reconstruction?

In City Council December 15, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

581

#6

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Consent Order #58

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**ORDER ADOPTED**