

15
BLESSED SACRAMENT RECTORY
189 PEARL STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
PHONE 547-1669

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

May 8 1973 3 55 PM '73

Her Honor the Mayor
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dear Madam Mayor:

We, the appointed citizens of the Mayor's special committee, wish to inform you of the progress to date. Twice, we have met with the City Manager and each time, listed the questions that are of concern to the neighborhood. These meetings were a waste of time. We had to repeat the questions many times despite the fact that they were recorded by the City Clerk, and we did not receive, as requested, the copies of the minutes of the meetings in the Walnut room. Mr. Corcoran also promised written responses from the Department Heads; this has not been done.

We feel that this evasive action is an attempt to cause confusion in the community. Sensing this, in frustration, we wrote a letter to the City Manager. (copy enclosed) We were then contacted by Mr. Corcoran and the results are mentioned above. On one occasion, Councillor Clinton was present and it was at this meeting that Mr. Corcoran presented us with our only "official" notification. (copy enclosed)

Since we are not only dissatisfied with this "response", we have gone through our records and made a chronological list of the questions raised by the community. A copy is enclosed and we have noted the questions that have been answered satisfactorily as well as those which have not.

To quote the closing paragraph from the statement made before the City Council on January 29th by Mrs. Mona Petrella, "I would like to close by saying that if the city fails to act, we have no alternative but to seek our legal course through the courts."

We hope this will not be necessary and that we will receive prompt and satisfactory response.

C.C.: John Corcoran, City Manager
Councillor D. Clinton
Councillor F. Duehay
Councillor R. Moncreiff
Councillor A. Vellucci
P. Healy, City Clerk
W. Cremens, Chief, Fire Dept.
C. Sprague, Bldg. Commissioner
J. Hartgering, Director,
Public Health Dept.
P. Peague, Editor, Camb. Chronicle
J. Kim, Boston Herald Advertiser
E. Coughlin, C.B.U.
V. Lastrullo, C.F. & P. A.
Cambridgeport Alliance

Sincerely yours,

Members of the Residents
Committee

Rev. Thomas F. Powers

Mona Petrella 661-1243

Rosalie Cuoco

Robert H. McDonald J.

Reginald P. Moser

7R. Powers

BLESSED SACRAMENT RECTORY

189 PEARL STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

PHONE 547-1669

April 10, 1973

Mr. John Corcoran
Office of the City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Corcoran:

We want to inform you that the Valentine Street Fire Citizens Committee is satisfied that the premises of AAA Plastics are cleared of stored plastics. We appreciate the presence of the officials at the inspection this morning.

However, we are concerned that we have neither been contacted about or received the official list of questions that were recorded by the Citizens Committee at the last two meetings. In discussing the matter with Mr. Sprague today, we got the definite impression that he too has received nothing. We also expect the promised copies of the minutes of the last two meetings from the city clerk.

Enough time has passed. If there is no immediate response from City Hall, we feel obliged to report the lack of progress to the citizens of Cambridgeport.

Waiting Your Reply,

Citizens Committee

CC: Councillor D. Clinton
Councillor F. Duehay
Councillor R. Moncreiff
Councillor A. Vellucci
P. Healy, City Clerk
J. Hartgering, Director, Public Health Department
W. Cremens, Chief, Fire Department
C. Sprague, Building Commissioner

BLESSED SACRAMENT RECTORY

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P. Healy, City Clerk
J. Hartgering, Director, Public Health Department
W. Cremens, Chief, Fire Department
C. Sprague, Building Commissioner

RESIDENT COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO "OFFICIAL" LIST OF QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS

(copy below)

1. Printing Shop at 69/71 Pearl St.

The answers seem to contradict one another. Particularly since the present use does not "conform" to the previous use of a few months ago.

2. Triple A. Plastics/Certificate of Occupancy

We do not find the answer satisfactory since it seems to imply that the city laws are not being enforced.

3. Commercial Supply Co., 17 Valentine St.

At the meeting in the Walnut room on February 26, This company had three weeks to apply for a variance or move to another location. It is now the month of May.

4. & 5. S.P. and Ace Venetian Blind Co.

These answers are satisfactory as far as we can determine. They were asked in an attempt to determine the validity of the inspections.

6. Inspection Reports

We have since requested a written list of all the violations that have been found. To date we have only received two incomplete lists of properties that have been inspected.

We are particularly interested in the WRIGHT GRINDING CO., located at 103 - 105 Brookline St. regarding 2 BOX TRAILERS.

Note inspection list (copies enclosed)

7. Triple A. Plastics/ Building Department

Poor excuse. VERY dissatisfied with answer. Stores were emptied
Feb. 1973.

8. & 9. Fire inspection and department co-operation

If this is so (?) - Why, after warnings from concerned residents as well as the Building Department, wasn't a sprinkler system installed?

Obviously, from the response to the previous question, the co-operation and/or communication between departments is NEGATIVE.

10. Triple A. Plastic/ Liens

We know this since we are responsible for this action in the first place but we want specific information regarding this issue.

(continued)

11. Disturbing NOISE from heavy equipment: J. C. Sullivan Co.

This seems to be inadequate protection for the rights of residents. If there is no law, we demand that something be done about it as suggested by Councillor Clinton.

12. Responsibility to keep area clean: J.C. Sullivan Co.

No response

13. Screening of fence. : J.C. Sullivan

Response confusing since we no nothing of these pictures.

14. Location of gas tank: J.C. Sullivan Co.

We requested specific measurements and these were promised by Mr. Sprague at the last meeting in the Walnut room.

15. Revision of Plastic Laws

No response.

~~XXX~~ The following questions were asked at these meetings but to date have been ignored.

16. Cost of fire to the City of Cambridge and breakdown of cost.

17. Is this area deliberately being depressed?
(See enclosed map.)

NOTE: This is a copy of the "official" notification presented to the Residents Committee, by the City Manager, at our last meeting, Wednesday, May 2, 1973, in the Blessed Sacrament Rectory.

201 10/20/73
Check for Fire Law Approval

① 69/71 Pearl Street - Printing Shop - Non Conforming.

Question: Are they leagally located? Yes

Do they have a certificate of occupancy. Is checking on this.

② Did AAA have a certificate of occupancy?

There is no copy in Building files. Prior to Mr. Sprague's assuming office it had not been a practice to keep a copy of said certificates.

③ Commercial Supply Co., 17 Valentine St. - Check for Fire Violations

Has variances been applied for? No

If not, what are we doing about it? Has certificate of occupancy been issued?

The owner is in process of having tenant relocated.

④ What does S.P. mean?

Special Permit - see attached excerpt from code.

⑤ Why is Ace Venetian Blind listed as "non conforming" in a business zone? If so, how did they get permit to operate after zoning law?

Because it is an Industrial use - see excerpt "non conforming".

⑥ Are any more reports due? Pleasant to Valentine; Mass. Avenue-Ch.River 3/9/73 and 3/26/73

Yes - one is now being checked out for zoning.

Have you found violations? Yes

If so are you pursuing remedial action? Yes

⑦ Why did you not act on letter of Mrs. Petrilla of November 29, 1969? This resulted in time mandate of Dec 2nd to clear up plastic. Did anyone follow up on this? Why did you not act upon store floor collapse subsequent to above?

No letter on file from Mrs. Petrilla - Notice sent to owner dated Dec 2 1969 to remove material in response to complaint by Camb. Legal Services - no notation in file but is recalled that stores were emptied soon after - we have no record of knowledge of floor collapse.

⑧ How effective is the Fire Inspection process? The Fire Department regularly inspects all churches, schools, industrial plants, etc. When violations are found, Fire Dept. issues notice and then returns for another inspection of area.

⑨ Does Building and Fire Dept. interchange information on questionable areas relating to fires?

Yes

⑩ Where are we legally with AAA on liens, etc.?

City has brought suit and real estate attachments have been made.

(Cont.)

(11.) Is there a stated time to start heavy equipment to work?

No definite laws - it is generally understood in the businesses that

7:00 A.M. is the proper time to start.

(12.) Whose responsibility is it to clean up areas after making it dirty?

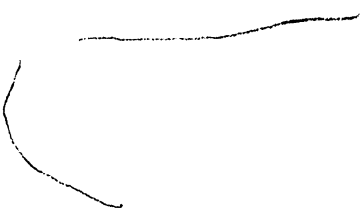
(13.) Is J. Sullivan willing to erect a screen fence at rear of property and clean up yard?

See pictures taken by Building Dept one early morning - did not notify anyone he was going to take pictures.

(14.) Location of gas tank - is it properly located with respect to law and all abutters?
specific measurements

Checked with License and Fire Dept - tank is perfectly okay - located in proper location (under concrete foundation) and in accordance with fire rules and regulations.

(15.) What are we doing re: "plastic" changes to existing laws"





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. John H. Corcoran
City Manager

Date March 9, 1973

From Charles F. Sprague
Building Commissioner

Reference

Subject

Council Order, (Pearl - Valentine Area)

Partial list

<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
69-71 Pearl St.	Printing Shop	C-2 Zone	Non-Conforming
145 Pearl Street	Millers Electric	C-1 Zone	Non-Conforming
42 Brookline St.	Commercial Printers	B-B Zone	Conforming
48 Brookline St.	American Cleaning	B-A Zone	Conforming
88 Brookline St.	Russell Engine Re-Build	B-A Zone	S.P.
→ 97 Brookline St.	Wright Grinding	B-A Zone	Non-Conforming
110 Brookline St.	E.M.F. Electric Supply	B-A Zone	Conforming
133 Brookline St.	J&S Body Repair- Gas Station	B-A Zone	S.P.
139 Brookline St.	Ace Venetian Blind	B-A Zone	Non-Conforming
128-132 Brookline St.	B.N. Yano Custom Plating	B-A Zone	Non-Conforming
155 Brookline St.	Wheeler Corp.-Machine Mfg.	B-A Zone	Non-Conforming
165 Brookline St.	R.P.M. Tool Supply	B-A Zone	Conforming
167 Brookline St.	Residential	B-A Zone	Conforming
169 Brookline St.	R.P.M. Tool Supply	B-A Zone	Conforming
201 Brookline St.	Acme Glass Co.	B-A Zone	Non-Conforming
143-145 Sidney St.	Laboratories (Stimpson Products)	I-B Zone	Conforming
171 Sidney St.	Boston Pipe & Fittings	I-B Zone	Conforming
179 Sidney St.	Vending Machines	I-B Zone	Conforming
197 Sidney St.	Eagle Curnice & Son	I-B Zone	Conforming
220 Sidney St.	James McCusky	I-B Zone	Conforming
300 Sidney St.	Wm. Simpson MASON Supplies	I-B Zone	Conforming



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. Charles F. Sprague
Building Commissioner

Date March 26, 1973

From Mr. William J. Fagan
Mr. Vincent L. Kelley
Subject Building Inspectors

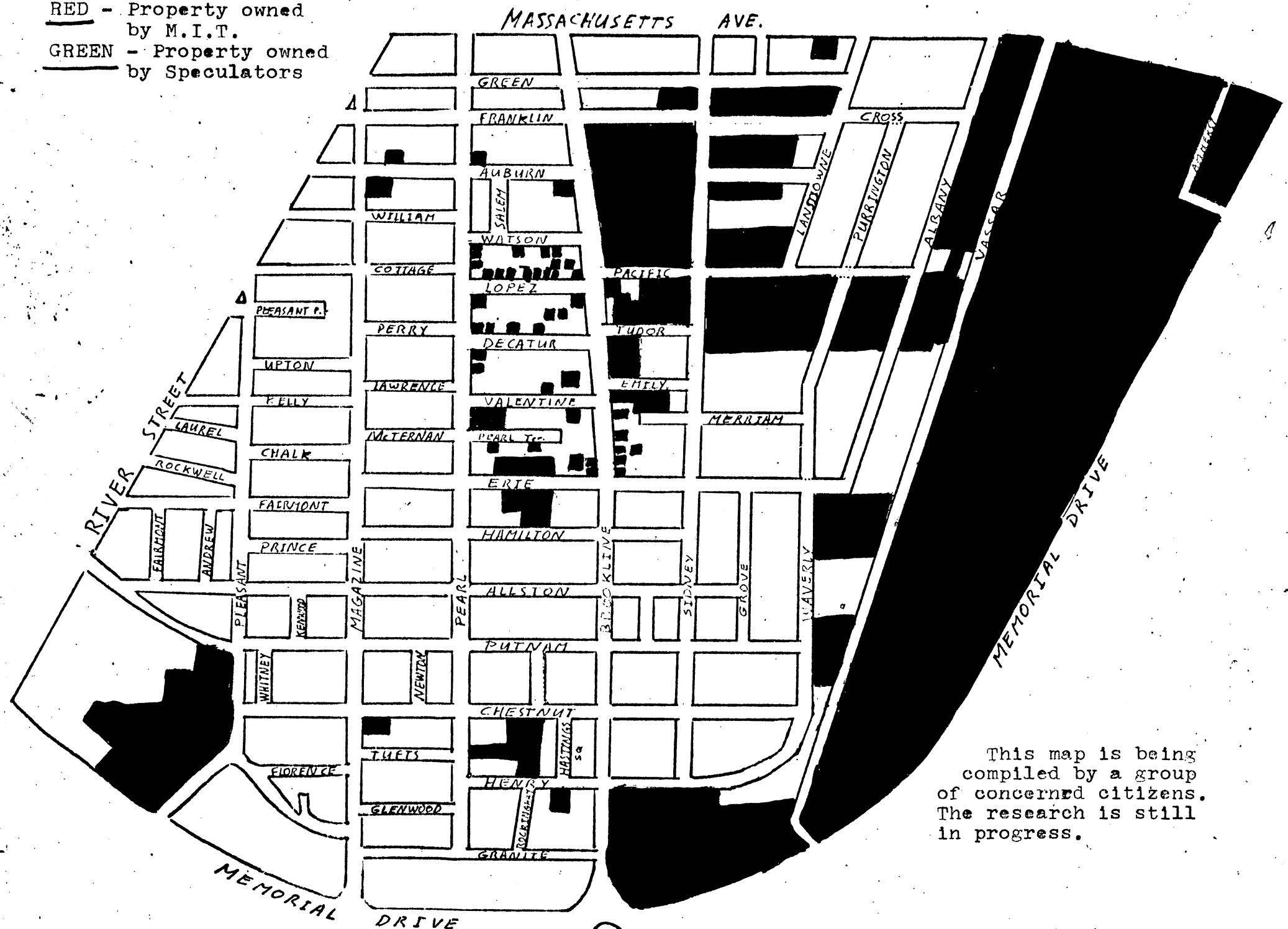
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<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
38 Henry Street	Polaroid Corp.	I-A	Conforming
23 Chestnut St.	A-F Disposal	I-B	Conforming
19 Chestnut St.	Shoe Business	I-B	Conforming
119 Waverly St.	California Paints	I-A	Conforming
152 Waverly St.	California Paints	I-A	Conforming
152 Waverly St.	St. Johnsbury Truck Terminal	I-A	S.P.
145 Waverly St.	Kubar Precision Bearings	I-A	Conforming
290-294-295 Albany Street	Cambridge Tire	I-B	Conforming
270 Albany St.	Paper Company Distributors	I-B	Conforming
251 Albany St.	Wetherell Brother Co.	I-B	Conforming
230 Albany St.	Lynn Molded Plastic Co.	I-B	Conforming
224 Albany St.	Draper, Stark Lab.	I-B	Conforming
195-197 Albany St.	Advent Corp. Elect. Equip.	I-B	Conforming
190 Albany St.	National Bisbuit Co.	I-B	Conforming
175 Albany St.	Interchemical Printing Ink	I-B	Conforming
167 Albany St.	Land O Lakes Butter	I-B	Conforming
166 Albany St.	MIT Magnet Lab.	I-B	Conforming
163 Albany St.	Paramount Coat Co.	I-B	Conforming
143 Albany St.	Paramount Coat Co.	I-B	Conforming

RED - Property owned
by M.I.T.

GREEN - Property owned
by Speculators



This map is being compiled by a group of concerned citizens. The research is still in progress.

Thursday
May 31

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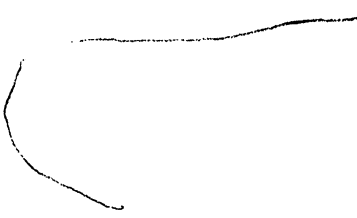
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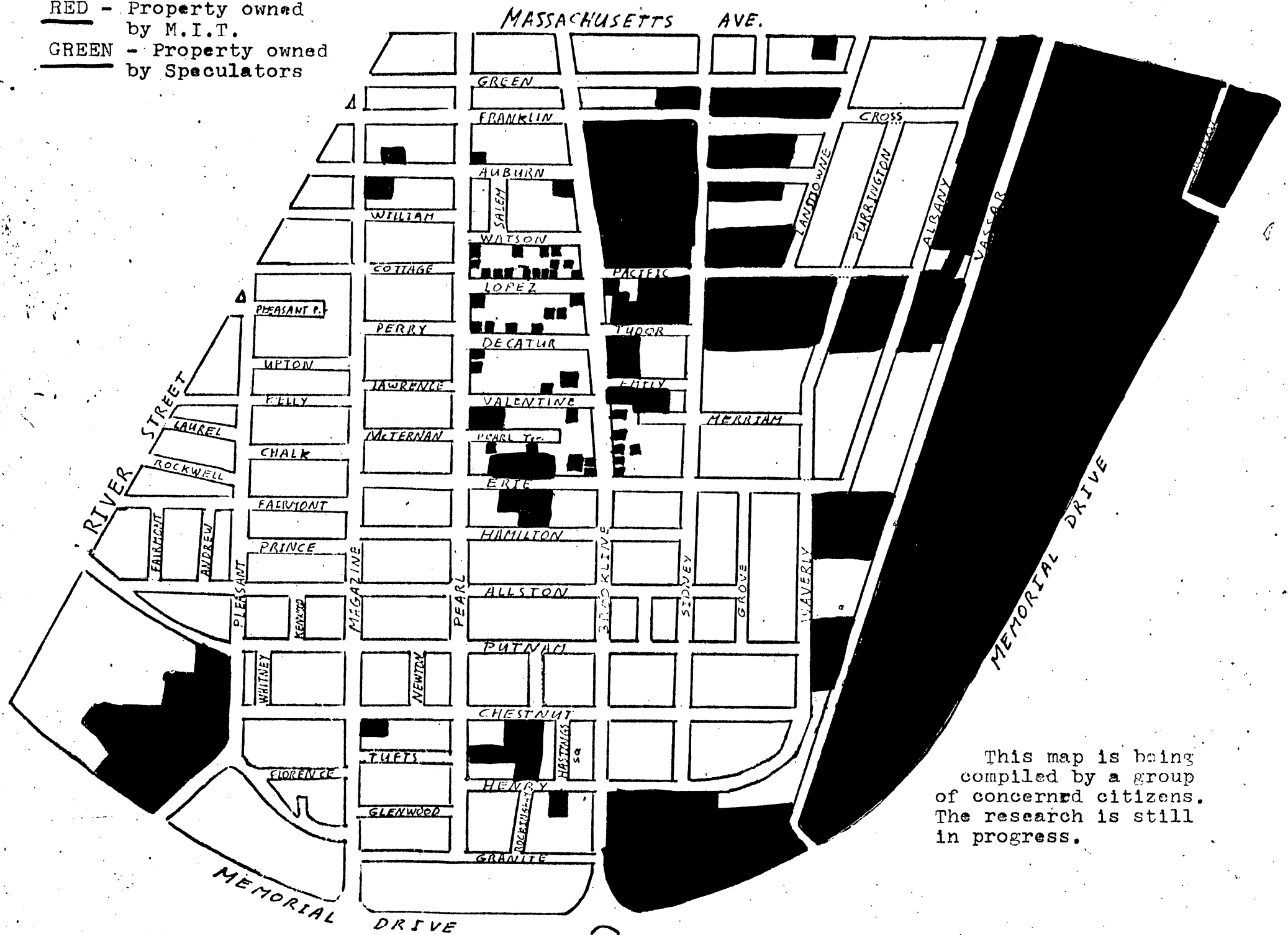
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Comm. from Rev. Thomas F. Powers, of the Blessed Sacrament Parish relative to problems encountered by the Residents Committee regarding complaints registered by the Neighborhood in the Pearl-Valentine Streets area.

In City Council,

May 14, 1973

Placed on File

*Order Adopted
Re City Manager*

Meeting -

Meeting set for May 31-

*Copy of Comm. to
City Manager -*

Reply May 21-73 by Mgr.