



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

BETH RUBENSTEIN

Acting Assistant City
Manager for Community
Development

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: ^{YBK} Beth Rubenstein, Acting Assistant City Manager
for Community Development

DATE: April 21, 1999

RE: Council Order #40 dated 1/11/99: Feasibility of taking the "Squirrel Brand" property by eminent domain for open space

This is an update on the efforts by the city to acquire some or all of the Squirrel Brands property in Area 4. As you know, the owner of the property passed away last year and the business has been on the market. The city has been in contact with the broker representing the family, Prudential Prime Properties, and has been informed that the property will be offered for sale sometime this spring. Our understanding is that the candy business was sold to a Texas-based company and will be relocating this summer.

The property consists of the following parcels:

8 Boardman Street --	1,146 s.f. warehouse
10/12 Boardman Street--	15,227 s.f. used as the candy factory
17 Boardman Street --	2,502 s.f. used as business offices
24 Boardman Street --	11,620 s.f. currently used as a community garden
168 Harvard Street --	2,774 s.f. currently used as a two family residence
191 Windsor Street --	1,741 s.f. warehouse

Community Development Department staff have discussed the reuse of this property with representatives of the Area 4 Coalition, who have expressed the goals of the Coalition to see the property redeveloped for both affordable housing and open space. City staff have looked at the property and based on a preliminary analysis we believe that the property could be redeveloped to provide both housing and open space. The Community Development Department Housing Division is working with the city's housing non-profits to make sure they are ready to act when the parcels become available for sale.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4321

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Francis H. Duehay
Mayor

April 14, 1999

Mrs. Catherine Gerrish
207 Grove Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mrs. Gerrish:

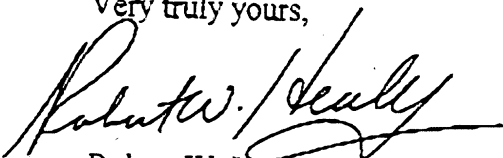
For over 20 years, Squirrel Brand Company has allowed the neighborhood to use the property located at the corner of Broadway and Boardman for community gardens. The gardens are quite actively used and have become an important neighborhood resource. Thank you for your and Mr. Gerrish's generosity in allowing this community use on your parcel.

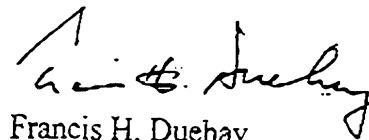
We now understand that the Squirrel Brand's property will be for sale in the near future. We write to express the City of Cambridge's strong interest in acquiring the property for two important public purposes: affordable housing and open space.

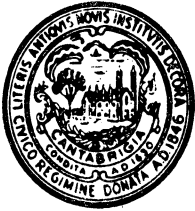
Could we talk with you about the possibility of the City acquiring the property and reusing it in a manner that will significantly contribute to the greater community?

We would like to set up a meeting with you and people who represent you in legal/real estate matters to discuss this possibility. Would you let us know if such a meeting is possible? We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager


Francis H. Duehay
Mayor



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



12.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 26, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-5, regarding a report on taking 210 Broadway and "Squirrel Brand" properties by eminent domain, received from Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #12

Cal. 12
3245

Relative to AR #99-5, regarding
a report on taking 210 Broadway
and "Squirrel Brand" properties
by eminent domain.

In City Council April 26, 1999

CHARTER RIGHT
BY T. Toomey

J/3/99

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