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CAMBRIDGE MA.

KATE BYRNE
PEGGY LYNCH
BROOKLINE ST. RESIDENTS

TO THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL,

As a community activists we are appalled by the recent, October 2, 1995 order initiated by Councillor Gallucio, that demands that the police be present at a neighborhood meeting that the neighbors did not invite them to.

The Cambridgeport Women's Safety Committee has been in existence since March 1994. We have organized three meetings with the residents and the police department after brutal rapes were reported in our neighborhood. Those meetings were difficult for both the residents and the police department. We have attempted to deal with those difficulties.

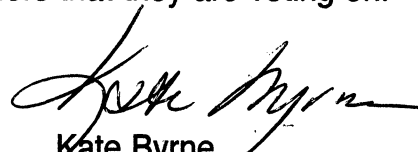
Not only have we organized those meetings, but we have notified residents about each rape that has taken place; we have produced and distributed to every door, a leaflet identifying safety measures women can take in their homes and on the streets; we organized several self defense workshops and we held a march through our neighborhood followed by a speak-out at city hall last winter. We worked with Councillor Triantafillou to develop better information access with the police department regarding rapes and we recently worked again with her to submit a resolution to change housing/building codes to incorporate several safety measures in buildings and apartments. We are committed to ending violence against women and building a sense of safety and security in our neighborhood.

Mr. Gallucio's order dismisses our work and our commitment. We did not ask the Council for this, nor do we want it.

We intend to go through with our meeting on Wednesday October 11 without inviting or entertaining the police. The order of October 2, 1995 should be rescinded. It establishes a bad precedent of council meddling in neighborhood process.

While we are critical of Mr. Gallucio for submitting this order, we also think it is notable that the Council passed such an order. A busy council, in a late night meeting, during election season should be more careful about orders that they are voting on.


Peggy Lynch
69 Brookline Street


Kate Byrne
158 Brookline Street

Consent Communication #2

S' 321

Communication was received from Peggy Lynch and Kate Byrne transmitting their disapproval of a request that the police be present at a neighborhood meeting that the neighbors did not invite them to.

In City Council October 23, 1995

Placed on file