

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 6, 1974

To the Honorable, the City Council:

This is in response to your request for my recommendations on new fire stations in East Cambridge.

In November 1972, the Planning and Development Department completed an analysis of East Cambridge fire protection needs and related fire station locations. I believe that this analysis was reviewed with the Council shortly thereafter.

In general, I concur with the conclusions and recommendations of the Planning and Development Department's analysis. Two new fire stations should be built in East Cambridge. One, a two-company facility replacing the Gore Street and Portland Street stations, should be located in the vicinity of Cambridge Street and Third Street. The second station, replacing the single engine company facility on Main Street in Kendall Square, should be located in the Kendall Square area.

At least two sites can be reasonably considered for the two-company station in the immediate future: The nearly-vacant site at Cambridge and Second Streets, largely owned by the Middlesex Bank; and a portion of Middlesex County land between Cambridge and Thorndike Streets which will be cleared of buildings vacated through occupancy of the County's new building.

The Kendall Square Urban Renewal area is the most likely location for the second new East Cambridge station.

I intend to take the following immediate steps to move these proposed fire stations towards reality.

1. Have a real estate appraisal made of the Middlesex Bank property.
2. Explore with Middlesex County officials the opportunities for fire station construction on excess County land.
3. Work out with the Redevelopment Authority a fire station site in the Kendall Square project.

In all cases, I want to consider the possibilities of joint development, in order to obtain the best possible financial advantage for the City.

One of the most likely companion uses in such joint development is

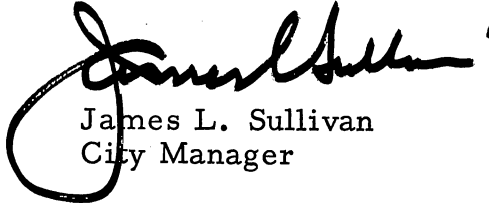
public parking. A study of off-street parking needs in East Cambridge is nearing completion, and I will consider the results carefully in preparing plans for fire station development.

If there is any uncertainty, however, in the present market for off-street parking in East Cambridge, I do not intend to have it prolong development of at least the more pressing fire station need -- the two-company facility.

Based upon my negotiations with the Middlesex Bank and with the County, I will prepare a recommendation for the Council on a site for the two-company fire station. A site for the single company station will become part of the Kendall Square Urban Renewal Plan submitted to the Council.

The 1973/FY74 Capital Improvements Program identified a new East Cambridge fire station as the Fire Department's first priority in Capital expenditures, and proposed that \$40,000 from the Architectural and Engineering Revolving Fund be set aside for design of a new station. I may have to carry this amount over to the FY-75 CIP, but I intend to give this project the attention it warrants.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/f

Agenda #9.

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Comm. from City Manager Re: recommendations
on new Fire Stations in Cambridge, (East).

In City Council

May 6, 1974

Placed on file