

Small Property Owners Association
287 Huron Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617)354-5533

November 18, 1992

Ms. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
795 Mass Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Please enter the attached letter as a communication to
the Cambridge City Council for the Nov. 23, 1992 council
meeting.

Sincerely,



Susan Batchelder
Corresponding Secretary

attachment: 1



The Small Property Owners Association of Cambridge
287 Huron Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 354-5533

November 18, 1992

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

To the Honorable City Council:

At the City Council meeting held on November 16, 1992, the topic of ethics was discussed at great length and the City Manager was directed to obtain opinions from the State Ethics Commission regarding certain issues.

We request that you also obtain an opinion if a Rent Control Board member should participate in cases where that member is an employee of a party in the case.

It is our understanding that board member Tim Connor is an employee of Harvard University. We request that the City Manager confer with the Executive Director of Rent Control and report back to the City Council with a list of cases involving Harvard University in which Mr. Connor participated.

We believe that Mr. Connor voted improperly in any and all board cases in which his employer appeared as a party before the Rent Control Board.

Under the provisions of Chapter 268A, if Mr. Connor cast the deciding vote in any case where he had an undisclosed and unexcused conflict of interest, the board's decisions in those cases may be invalidated.

We ask that the city's legal department and Rent Control Board establish which cases may have been tainted in this manner by Mr. Connor's failure to disclose his relationship. We ask further that the city refer the matter, with all relevant materials gathered, to the appropriate authorities for legal action.

We also request that you send us a copy of the report from the State Ethics Commission when you receive it.

Sincerely,

Susan Batchelder
Corresponding Secretary

Consent Comm. # 8

5-1005

Comm. received from Susan Batchelder,
Corresponding Secretary, Small Property
Owners Association of Cambridge, regarding
obtaining opinions from the State Ethics
Commission regarding Rent Control issues.

In City Council,

November 23, 1992

*Referred to the City
Manager
Copy sent to City Mgr
11/24/92 (aw)*