

3 April 1972

To the Mayor of Cambridge and the Cambridge City Council:

Persuant to an order submitted on 6 March 1972 by Francis Duehay to the Cambridge City Council, I was furnished with preliminary copies of the so-called Police list for this city. I have examined these preliminary lists from a number of different approaches. My conclusion is that, as presented, they do not fulfill the statutory requirements of section 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

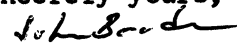
Sections 4 to 14 of chapter 51 delegate to the Election Commission the duty and the necessary authority to make, annually, true lists containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name of every person seventeen years of age and older residing in Cambridge. According to the census taken by the US Bureau of the Census in 1970, there are approximately 82,000 persons seventeen years or older residing in Cambridge. Based on a count of the eight wards given to me (Wards 2, 4, & 6 have not been completed), the current Police list will contain only 55,000 names.

As of November 1971, there were about 44,000 names on the list of voters in Cambridge, leaving 36,000 others that were enumerated by the US Census (eighteen and older) but have not registered to vote. Thus, on the average, there should be 490 unregistered names for every 600 registered voters. Precinct 5 of Ward 3, however, has only 111 unregistered for 608 registered voters. Precinct 1 of Ward 7 has 176 for 632; Precinct 2 of Ward 7, 150 for 683; and Precinct 5 of ward 8, 246 for 923. A visual inspection of the other precincts given to me shows them to be completely comparable to the above examples. An extrapolation of this estimate of missing names shows that roughly 24,000 names are missing.

For the four buildings on Broadway numbered 352, 354, 356A, and 358 (Precinct 4, Ward 3), seven names are given on the Police list. Of these seven, two do not live there. In addition, nineteen people who do live there are not on the list. For the building that I own and live in at 23 Berkeley St. (Precinct 3, Ward 8), four names are given in the Police list but two of these do not live there. In addition, six others who do live there have not been listed. Of these six, five have been registered to vote in Cambridge.

In my opinion, the Police list for 1972 as given to me is so inadequate as to call for an immediate investigation by the City Council. I would urge the City Council to meet in public hearing as soon as possible with the Election Commission (which is charged by law with preparing the Police list) and the Chief of Police whose men go door to door gathering the census information. At such a hearing, I shall be glad to submit what other evidence I have.

Sincerely yours,


John Brode, 23 Berkeley St.

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Communication from John Brode, 23 Berkeley
Street, Cambridge relative to police
listing

April 3, 1972

PLACED ON FILE

Copies to all Councilors