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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

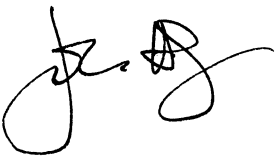
November 27, 1998

I write in hearty support of the Order placed before the Council by Sheila Russell, concerning the use of the abandoned "VFW building" on Mass Ave just above Porter Square.

If you check your files, you may in fact find a letter from me to each of you on this subject, dating from several years back, and suggesting the building be made into the Thomas P. O'Neill Community Cultural Center.

There is a sturdy and vibrant arts community in this end of Cambridge, which is sustained by the remarkable efforts of Jessie Rabban, Librarian of the Mildred O'Neill Branch of the Cambridge Public Library. But the space there is less than minimal, and the arts activities -- displays, openings, and readings -- tend to interfere with the functioning of the library as a library, or to demand that the already-overworked staff stay on after their usual work hours.

In short, the North Cambridge Arts community needs a home, and the VFW building needs a use, before it simply falls into utter dereliction. That the community might be further served by classes serving children and the aged simply adds more appeal to the idea. So I hope you will, in due course, give it your favorable attention. Of course there will be expenses involved; but I would not overlook the willingness of the community to assist in the raising of funds, and in "sweat equity" projects that might well reduce costs.



Consent Communication #11

7875

A communication was received from
John Hildebidle, transmitting support
for the use of the abandoned "VFW building"
on Mass Avenue to be made into the Thomas
P. O'Neill Community Cultural Center.

In City Council December 7, 1998

PLACED ON FILE