

- Monday 11 6 AM -
Cambridge Police Association

POST OFFICE BOX 730
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139

JOSEPH BELLISSIMO
President

RUEBIN DOTTIN
Vice President

DAVID BETZ
Treasurer

JOSEPH PEPIN
Secretary

TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE

FEBRUARY 20, 1981

HONORED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE POLICE ASSOCIATION, OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF YOUR ATTEMPTS TO REMEDY THE THREATS CAUSED BY PROPOSITION 2½. AS THE UPCOMING BUDGET HAERINGS OCCUR WE FEEL THAT WE MUST EXPRESS OUR STRONG DISAPPROVAL WITH THE PROMISE BY THE CITY MANAGER TO LAYOFF POLICE OFFICERS. CAMBRIDGE ADMITTEDLY IS NOW AN UNSAFE COMMUNITY WHERE ONE CAN NO LONGER FEEL SECURE IN WALKING OUR STREETS. IN ADDITION OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS SERIOUSLY UNDERMANNED (AS CONCERNS PATROLMEN) AND OFTEN MANY SECTIONS OF THIS CITY IS LEFT UNPROTECTED. AS CRIME HAS RISEN EACH YEAR APPROXIMATELY 20% THE CITY IN RESPONSE HAS ADDED ONLY 23 OFFICERS SINCE 1975. REGARDLESS WE ALL HAVE A PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR CITIZENRY WHO DID NOT APPROVE OF 2½ LAST NOVEMBER. WE ALSO FEEL THAT NO ONE IN THIS CITY WANTS OR WILL APPROVE OF A LOSS IN AN ALREADY DESPERATE POLICE SERVICE. WE NEED MORE MEN NOT A LOSS OF OUR SPARSE COVERAGE. IT IS INCUMBANT UPON YOU OF THE COUNCIL TO FULFILL THE TRUST THAT THE PUBLIC HAS PLACED IN YOU BY UPHOLDING THE ESSENTIAL NEED FOR POLICE PROTECTION WITHIN THIS CITY. WE REALIZE THAT UNLESS FINANCIAL REMEDIES OCCUR THEN YOU FACE BUDGET PROBLEMS WHICH WILL CAUSE OBVIOUS CUTS. THE "FAT" DOES NOT EXIST WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ATTENTION WOULD BE BETTER SHOWN TOWARDS ADMINISTRATIVE PLACES ELSEWHERE.

OUR ASSOCIATION STANDS READY TO LEND SUPPORT TO ANY ENDEAVORS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF 2½. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, SUPPORT ANY LAYOFF OF PATROLMEN AS WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE NEED FOR OUR PATROL OFFICERS. THIS CITY CAN BE IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY IF THE COUNCIL FAILS TO ACT TO KEEP SERVICES INSTEAD OF DESTROYING THE QUALITY OF LIFE HERE. IT IS SIMPLY UP TO THE COUNCIL

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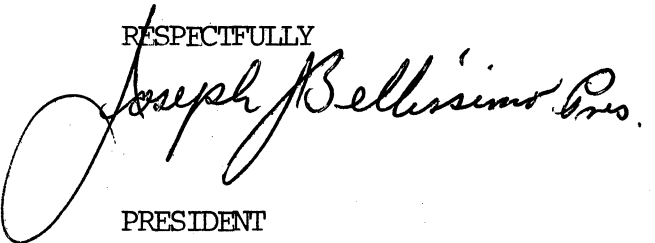
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TO KEEP OUR LOW MANPOWER LEVELS FROM BECOMING EVEN LOWER. IF CUTS MUST OCCUR THEN WE ASK THAT ESSENTIAL SERVICES BE KEPT INTACT. WE ALL HAVE A PROBLEM IN THIS CITY AS POLICE PROTECTION IS IN GREAT NEED OF AN UPLIFT. UNFORTUN-
-ATLY THERE DOES NOT EXIST THE FUNDS FOR SUCH AN UPLIFT BUT WE ASK THAT CURRENT
LEVELS BE PRESERVED. THIS IS OUR DESIRE AND ALSO THAT OF THE PUBLIC WE ARE CERTAIN.
PROPOSITION 2½ HAS MANDATED MUCH BUT IT NEVER MANDATED THE LOSS OF A STREET COP. IT
IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE OUR YOUNG AND ENERGETIC OFFICERS WHO ARE CAMBRIDGE'S
HOPE FOR A SAFER FUTURE. SHOULD THEY BE LOST CONSIDER THE MONEY LOST AS A RESULT
OF HAVING TO TRAIN NEW OFFICERS, SINCE MANY WOULD FIND ALTERNATIVE CAREERS AND
MIGHT NOT RETURN. REGARDLESS THERE IS MUCH MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN MONEY OR
BUDGETS.....THE BOTTOM LINE IS THE PROTECTION OF OUR PEOPLE. WE CARE, NOW IT IS
UP TO THE COUNCIL TO SHOW THAT THEY TOO CARE. PLEASE DO NOT LET THE PEOPLE
AND THE POLICE OFFICERS OF CAMBRIDGE DOWN ...BUDGET CUT ELSEWHERE.

RESPECTFULLY


PRESIDENT

JJB:mg

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