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CAMBRIDGE MA.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

RE: Inn at Harvard Band Entertainment Area, "Prohibition" of obvious use in light of Library Park misbehavior and extended use of Quincy Street as parking lot for Harvard

The cynicism of our bad city council is distressingly visible, once again in Harvard Square.

Last year the city council, without public hearing and with the maximum secrecy possible, voted to convert the public square next to the Inn at Harvard into a band playing area for the benefit of Harvard and the Inn at Harvard. Now the council has the absolute gall to claim, in the Street Performance Ordinance, that, even though band entertainment is the obvious use for this Harvard Square area after they modify it, they are going to "prohibit" bands from using the band entertainment area as a band entertainment area.

This "prohibition" is comparable to the city council's first response to the prompt public outrage concerning its secret vote last year. After the vote was taken and made final, the council held four public meetings on the issue. They held none before the final vote. In those four public meetings, only one vote was allowed. In that vote the public unanimously rejected the city council action. The city council is going forward any way.

Comparable to the "prohibition" of bands in the Inn at Harvard band area was the year long "prohibition" of parking on nearby Quincy Street "during sewer work". For months, Quincy Street was in perfect shape and a private parking lot for Harvard whenever Harvard so wished. The public, however, was barred from parking. If the "prohibition" of bands in the Inn at Harvard band area lasts beyond the outrage at the construction, giving Harvard yet another perk at the expense of the public is bizarre, but fitting the record of our government.

The standard game, however, is promise the public anything. Just get it built; then do whatever you want. One of the most extreme examples of city government irresponsibility can be seen three blocks from this band performance area where the city council will "prohibit" bands.

In the 19th Century, Frederick Rindge gave the city the area around the Cambridge's Public Library, from Cambridge Street to Broadway as a beautiful library common. It was a magnificent jewel. It contained the densest accumulation of trees in the city in the Library Park portion of the Library Common, between the Public Library and Cambridge Street.

Rindge placed a condition on his gift. He prohibited use of any part of the Library Common for school purposes. He gave the land east and west of the library common as city high school sites.

Our city government destroyed that beautiful Library Park for the High School rearrangement. If we had a responsible government, our government would have rebuilt the high school on the previously existing high school sites east and west of the library common. This would have created a campus school with the library common as its gem.

In order to destroy Library Park, our city government promised residents on Broadway and a Superior Court judge that the Broadway residents would be paid for the ruthless destruction with a much larger park on Broadway.

Without that promise, our government may not have been able to violate the solemn commitment to Frederick Rindge by which our government got the library common.

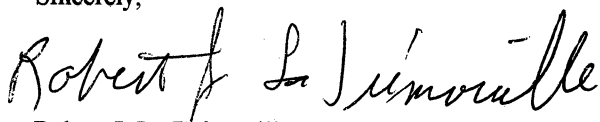
Now our city government wants to build in the middle of the Broadway park.

Not a single member of the city council expresses outrage at the extreme lack of ethics involved.

Given the pride of our city government in its extreme lack of ethics in the Library Common area, why should be anybody be so stupid as to think our city government is going to build a band entertainment area in Harvard Square, next to the Inn at Harvard and meaningfully prohibit bands from using the band playing area as a band playing area?

Our city government is proud of having no ethics. Our city government should not think we are so stupid as to believe its "prohibition" of using that band playing area for its obvious use has any value. The responsible behavior is: don't create the band entertainment area in the first place.

Sincerely,


Robert J. La Trémouille

Consent Communication #17

S-215

Communication was received from Bob LaTremouille, transmitting letter regarding his view of the Inn at Harvard Bank Entertainment Area, "Prohibition" of obvious use in light of Library Park misbehavior and extended use of Quincy Street as parking lot for Harvard.

In City Council April 22, 1996

Placed on file