

April 24, 2000

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By

Carl F. Barron

A place in the sun to sit now evokes a controversy, i.e., virtues of having seating capacity for local people and tourists to rest, enjoy the fresh air, and watch the flow of people going by. That is a wonderful pastime that I enjoy myself. Unfortunately, in Central Square, this is not always possible. The benches, supposedly installed for the use and enjoyment of everyone now seem to be largely reserved for drunks, and people whose behavior leaves much to be desired. Is this the reason why the City's tax funds were spent? Is this the reason why the local residents, employees and tourists are often afraid to use the benches which are often employed as beds, storage space for all types of bundles, and a complete disregard for use by anyone except by the occupant? Is this the original intent to have these benches installed? I seriously question it.

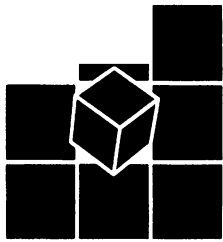
I feel strongly that the benches should be updated to provide seating space only and no longer permitted to be used as beds. I feel that it is not an inalienable right to use these benches, but a privilege, and paid for by the same people who now can't use them themselves.

There have been questions and debates within city officialdom concerning these benches which should be used to provide comfort and enjoyment for everyone, not those few who care nothing about anyone else, knowingly or unknowingly.

I further believe that, if a local merchant is finding that his business is not being enhanced by the improper use of the benches in front of his establishment, he should be given the right, at least for one time, to request the removal of what appears to be a problem to him, where he is making his living. I firmly believe that our local businesses have a right to peaceful enjoyment and the opportunity to make their living, just as do the residential members of our community, and I would completely support the same type of protection for residential neighborhoods, since I feel that both the business community and the residential have a great deal in common, i.e., the right to peaceful enjoyment without harm to anyone.

I sincerely hope that this problem can be corrected before the warm season takes place since conditions were not very good last year, as I know by my own personal observation on many occasions. Action to protect all of us should be taken in the very near future by proper authorities in the City.

cc: Commissioner Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner Ronnie Watson
City Manager Robert W. Healy
Cambridge City Council
CSBA Board of Directors



CENTRAL SQUARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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April 24, 2000

Miss D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

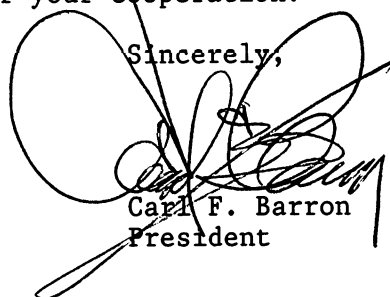
RE: PUBLIC BENCHES IN CENTRAL SQUARE/
ADVANCE COPY OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
TO APPEAR IN THE NEXT CENTRAL ISSUE

Dear Miss Drury:

Would you please forward the enclosed, an advance copy of the President's Message concerning the above, to each member of the Cambridge City Council.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Barron
President

CFB99/Drury

Enc.

Consent Communication #4

111-5

A communication was received from
Carl F. Barron, President, Central
Square Business Association, relative
to public benches in Central Square.

S-111

In City Council May 1, 2000

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