



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Tel. 876-6800

CAMBRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George A. McLaughlin, Sr.
General Chairman

Paul J. Frank
Executive Director

April 9, 1969

To The Honorable City Council
City Hall
Cambridge
Massachusetts

RE: Project No. Mass. R-135
WALDEN SQUARE

Dear Councillors:

The CAC Committee on Housing wishes to be recorded at the April 14, 1969, City Council public hearing on the Walden Square Project (Mass. R-135) in favor of this undertaking to help meet the housing crisis in this City.

A letter from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development on December 12, 1968, stated that before approving the Walden Square Project (Mass. R-135) that Department required a statement from the Workable Program Citizens Advisory Committee. The Committee on Housing of CAC, therefore, met on January 16, 1969, and approved this project.

The Committee voted as follows:

The Walden Square Project (Mass. R-135) in the West Cambridge area of Cambridge to provide 250-300 units of low and moderate income family and elderly housing is appropriate both as to timing and location principally because

- (1) A Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee survey in 1968 of 2061 senior citizens over 65 years of age revealed that 63% of those who agreed to state their income receive less than \$1500 per year;
- (2) Only 15% of the 2061 people interviewed are receiving assistance from the Department of Public Welfare;
- (3) Practically none of the persons interviewed is living in public housing;

April 9, 1969

- (4) The Walden Park Project has the full support of the Interfaith Housing Corporation of Cambridge, consisting of church groups, and The Cambridge Corporation, a local civic development foundation, to meet the needs for housing as revealed by many reliable sources, including the CEOC survey referred to above;
- (5) The construction of low and moderate income housing in the Walden Park Project area will not displace any families and in excess of 33% of the present structures now in the area appear to be structurally substandard;
- (6) In 1960 there was a shortage of 4000 low-rent dwelling units in Cambridge and this situation has been aggravated not only by the unprecedented demand for housing in Cambridge but because neither the public nor private agencies have produced, since 1960, even 10% of 4000 low-rent dwelling units in Cambridge; and
- (7) There is a severe shortage in Cambridge of housing on an ownership basis for low and moderate income families to be displaced by action of public authorities and pressures for other land uses.

This proposed redevelopment will provide housing at a time when it will be most needed.

Attached is a copy of the resolution passed unanimously by the Cambridge City Council of October 3, 1966, authorizing this Committee to act in compliance with the regulations of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development under the provisions of the City of Cambridge Workable Program.

Sincerely,

George A. McLaughlin, Sr.

George A. McLaughlin, Sr.
General Chairman

Donald Spencer

Donald Spencer
Chairman
Committee on Housing

Enclosure

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Councillor Coates

In City Council,
October 3, 1966

WHEREAS:-

The approval of the City of Cambridge Workable Program for 1967-1968 by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development is conditioned partly by a reorganization of the Citizens Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS:-

As the members of the present Citizens Advisory Committee have voted to disband, be it

ORDERED:-

That a new Citizens Advisory Committee be organized to comply with the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, be it further

ORDERED:-

That this Committee be organized in the following manner:

- (a) Purpose -- The purpose of this committee is to serve as the formal means through which active citizen participation is provided to aid and support the development and carrying out of the Workable Program for Community Improvement for Cambridge. The functions of the committee will include
 - (1) The use of the skills, knowledge and experience of its members and the organizations and groups they represent to assist and advise the local government with respect to programs for the orderly growth, development and improvement of the community;
 - (2) Keep the general public informed about such programs and of progress thereunder;
 - (3) Serve as a medium for the promotion of private programs in support of Workable Program objectives.
- (b) Members -- A minimum of 25 members shall be appointed by the City Manager, approved by the Council, representing the city both geographically and by group.
- (c) Duties -- The Committee shall be involved in all Workable Program for Community Improvement activities and act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on matters pertaining to The Workable Program.

City Council October 3, 1966
Adopted by the affirmative vote
of 9 members

(Signed) Thomas M. McNamara, City Clerk



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CAMBRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George A. McLaughlin, Sr.
General Chairman

Paul J. Frank
Executive Director

April 10, 1969

Mr. Paul E. Healy
Acting City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Paul:

I would appreciate your placing the enclosed letter before the City Council at the public hearing on April 14 on the Walden Square Project.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Frank
Executive Director

PJF:cc
Enclosure

S- 113

COMMUNICATION

From Paul J. Frank, Executive Director,
Cambridge Advisory Committee stating that
the CAC Committee on Housing wishes to be
recorded at the April 14, 1969 City Council
public hearing on the Walden Square Pro-
ject (Mass.R-135) in favor of this under-
taking to help meet the housing crisis in
this City.

April 14, 1969

*Referred to the
Hearing on the
Calendar for
this date.*