

April 4, 1996

To the Cambridge City Council:

I was very disturbed to read that Thomas Downs was released on \$1500 bail after strangling and injuring a female acquaintance. What kind of a message does this send to women in general and specifically to women in Cambridge. If a woman is in a relationship with a government employee does that mean she cannot count on protection should he become abusive? Do we place more value on the reputations of our state troopers than on the lives of our female citizens?

I was under the impression that Cambridge had made a commitment to create a violence-free community. How can the people of Cambridge be expected to take this decree seriously if our public officials do not? I hope that The City Council, District Attorney Thomas Reilly, Judge Brant, and Chief Justice John J. Irwin will address the gravity of this situation and that they will see to it that should a similar case arise, it will be handled appropriately.

Sincerely,

Nylie O'Hara Doughty
37 Arlington St.
Cambridge, Mass.
02140

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OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
96 APR -4 PM 4:00
CAMBRIDGE MASS

Consent Communication #27

S-182

Communication was received from
Hylic O'Hara Doughty, transmitting
disturbance regarding the release
of Thomas Downs on \$1,500 bail
after allegedly strangling a female
Cantabrigian.

In City Council April 8, 1996

Placed on file