



City of Cambridge

Communication #9

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 5, 1996

COUNCILLOR REEVES

ORDERED: That the Chair of the City Council and City Manager shall be requested to set up a meeting with Harvard University regarding Harvard's plans to close the shops by Harvard Yard.

In City Council February 5, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Comm # 9

C. Reeves

Ordered: ^{Change the official} That the City Manager shall be requested to arrange set up a meeting with Harvard University regarding Harvard's plans to close the shops at

Feb 13 9 am - meeting
with Scott
Luntan

2/1/96
2:27 PM

SAVE THE SHOPS BY HARVARD YARD

**Committee to Save the
Shops by Harvard Yard**
1346 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 354-0231
February 1, 1996

Cambridge City Clerk
Room 103 ,1st Floor, City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Request to be on the Public Meeting agenda for Monday, February 5, 1996

Dear City Clerk,

The Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard would like to request to be included on the public meeting agenda for this Monday, February 5, 1996.

The issues to be addressed are outlined in the enclosed copies of two letters that the committee has sent to the City Council members and to Harvard Planning and Real Estate.

Please contact our representative, Renato Reis, at the above listed address and phone number with any problems or questions. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Sincerely yours,

The Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard

Renato D. Reis

Committee Representative

2/1/96
2:27 PM

SAVE THE SHOPS BY HARVARD YARD

**Committee to Save the
Shops by Harvard Yard**

1346 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
January 29th, 1996

Scott Levitan
V.P. Harvard Planning and Real Estate
1350 Massachusetts Avenue, 10th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138

Re: Request for information on your plan to shut down the Shops by Harvard Yard

Dear Mr. Levitan,

On January 23rd, during a meeting led by Scott Levitan with the tenants of the Shops by Harvard Yard, we were told that the shops will be closed by Harvard University starting sometime this summer. We have not been given a full explanation as to why Harvard University is taking away our livelihoods. Harvard University has always been known for acting in a socially responsible manner. We cannot believe that this same consideration will not be extended to the small business owners of the Shops by Harvard Yard.

We would like to work with you to find a way to keep the Shops by Harvard Yard open. We have not received one written statement regarding the action you are about to take. Please provide the *Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard* with Harvard's position on the proposed shutdown of our businesses.

The Committee appreciates your full attention to this matter of critical importance to us.

Sincerely yours,

The Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard

Irma B. King Licorish
Irma B. King Licorish
Caribbean African Creations

Olga E. Lopera
Olga E. Lopera
Zipa

Julia Cortez
Julia Cortez
Discovery Importers

Monica Calvo
Monica Calvo
M & C

Gretchen F. Hardina
Gretchen F. Hardina
Toy Box

Bhushan Manandhar
Bhushan Manandhar
Nepa Bhon

Rhonda Richards

Doiha Contescu
Doiha Contescu
My Dog

Renato Reis
Renato Reis
Karin Berger
Renato's for Men

Mala Jain
Mala Jain
J.B. Jain
Summit Fashion

cc

COPY

SAVE THE SHOPS BY HARVARD YARD

**Committee to Save the
Shops by Harvard Yard**
1346 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 354-0231
January 30th, 1996

2/1/96
2:27 PM
Cambridge City Council
Second Floor, City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Harvard University's plans to shut down our businesses at the Shops by Harvard Yard

Dear Council Members,

We, the Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard, are writing this letter to bring to your attention a serious matter involving the livelihoods of small business people in the Shops by Harvard Yard. We would appreciate your support in resolving our crisis.

On January 23rd, during a meeting led by Scott Levitan, V.P. of Harvard Planning and Real Estate, with the tenants of the Shops by Harvard Yard, we were told that shops will be closed by Harvard starting sometime this summer. We have not been given a full explanation as to why Harvard is taking away our livelihoods. Harvard has always been known for acting in a socially responsible manner. We cannot believe that this same consideration will not be extended to the small business owners in the Shops by Harvard Yard.

Only two years ago, Harvard enticed our minority-owned businesses into making substantial investments into their new retail space at the Shops at Harvard Yard, in the Holyoke Center Arcade. Now, we all face eviction within a three to six-month period. At the January 23rd meeting Harvard has made the ambiguous statement that this is a "failing project" in their view, despite the fact that we all pay above market rents. They announced their intention to take back the Holyoke Center Arcade space and return it to Harvard use only, thus renegging on the project's initially stated promise of giving something back to the Cambridge community.

Our businesses are successful in every single way: (1) supporting ourselves and our families, (2) creating employment opportunities in Cambridge, (3) generating profitable rents to Harvard University, (4) paying community taxes, (5) providing unique goods and services to the community and (6) creating a lively and attractive community space.

The Committee appreciates your full attention to this matter of critical importance to us. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

The Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard
Renato D. Reis
Committee Representative

9.

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
JAN 31 PM 3:28
CAMBRIDGE MA.

SAVE THE SHOPS BY HARVARD YARD

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Shops by Harvard Yard**
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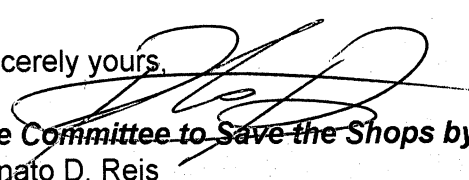
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Sincerely yours,


The Committee to Save the Shops by Harvard Yard
Renato D. Reis
Committee Representative

Consent Communication #9

5-22

Communication was received from
Renato D. Reis, Save the Shops by
Harvard Yark, Committee Representative,
transmitting concern regarding a serious
matter involving the livelihoods of
small business people in the Shops by
Harvard Yark.

In City Council February 5, 1996

Order Adopted