



City of Cambridge

O-9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 3, 2001

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Assistant City Manager for Community Development and any other appropriate staff to provide technical assistance to Green Street Studios as they attempt to renegotiate their current lease or find other space in Cambridge, as described in the attached communications.

In City Council December 3, 2001.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

From: "Green Street Studios" <info@greenstreetstudios.org>
To: <tintoomey@aol.com>
Copies to: <msullivan@ci.cambridge.ma.us>, <kreeves@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
<dmaher@ci.cambridge.ma.us>, <agalluccio@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
<hdavis@ci.cambridge.ma.us>, <jbraude@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
<kathyborn@aol.com>, <mdecker@ci.cambridge.ma.us>
Subject: Green Street Studios
Date sent: Tue, 27 Nov 2001 19:30:55 -0500

To all the Cambridge Council,

We are sending you our press release to inform you of the possible emergency situation that Green Street Studios is facing. We may be forced to move out of our space by this December 31st after 10 years of solid dance education and performance. By sending this information, we are hoping that some of you may have some ideas or advice as to acquiring a new space for us whether it be a temporary or permanent home. We welcome any comments or advice.

Thank you,

Green Street Studios
185 Green Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
info@greenstreetstudios.org
tel. 617-864-3191

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN STREET STUDIOS LEASE NEGOTIATIONS
BREAK DOWN: MAY BE FORCED OUT OF SPACE BY DECEMBER 31ST, 2001

Who: Green Street Studios
Where: 185 Green Street, Central Square, Cambridge, 617-864-3191
Contact: (beg. Wed. 11/28) Marcus Schulkind home: 617-945-2696, GSS
617-864-3191
E-mail: info@greenstreetstudios.org

After months of negotiations, Green Street Studios has been unable to settle a new lease with their landlord, Healthworks owner Mark Harrington. GSS has been residing in their current space for the past ten years at 185 Green Street in Central Square. Knowing that their lease was up this January 1st, GSS entered into negotiations in February of this year. Harrington is asking more than double their current rent, which would cost over \$90,000 a year. In multiple communications, Harrington expressed a willingness to work with GSS to meet the higher rent over a few years. GSS submitted many proposals all of which were rejected by Harrington without a counter proposal. Now in the final weeks he has said he does not believe GSS can continue to be a viable renter. While GSS disagrees, they are pushing for at least 6 months to deal with the change.

If Green Street Studios is not granted the 6 months, they will have to vacate the space with all their equipment or risk it being taken by Mr. Harrington. GSS was taken by surprise by the suddenness of the events after 8 solid months of good faith negotiations and assurances that they could continue to work in their current space.

Green Street Studios is a premier center for dance education and performance and one of only two studios that offer modern dance education. The loss of GSS would impact the dance community immensely and members are already expressing concern in phone calls offering help to the organization. GSS has served both local and out of state companies including the Marcus Schulkind Dance Company, Anna Myer and Dancers, Daniel McCusker, Caitlin Corbett, Carol Somers, EgoArt, Jody Weber, Ram Island Dance and Wendy Woodson to name a few. In addition, Mark Morris from NYC did a 3 year summer residency in the space. Dance companies and educators as well as other renters who use the space will be hard pressed to find alternate venues, as space is slim, with only a few local studios offering similar services.

GSS did all the renovations on the current space, including their prized sprung floors that Harrington is now claiming to be part of his property as he has suggested plans for using the space for similar uses. GSS directors are fighting this claim. The floors installed at GSS are "floating floors" which means they are not attached to the foundation and they are designed to be easily moved and re-laid.

It remains to be seen how GSS will deal with the change and they are currently weighing their options. Any help from the community is welcome and GSS is seeking help from the city of Cambridge in regards to possible temporary or even permanent spaces.

Immediate emergency funding will be needed to keep Green Street Studios in business let alone planning for a future. GSS directors are currently working on strategies to save their business and continue their creative work. Harrington, in the meantime, has refused to commit to extending the lease 6 months and has been elusive for months, leaving the directors at Green Street Studios wondering still if they must relocate by December 31st.

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Res on relocation of Green St Studio

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Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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Order #9

Provide technical assistance to Green Street Studios as they attempt to renegotiate their current lease or find other space in Cambridge.

Councillor Sullivan and entire membership

In City Council December 3, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED