

June 18, 1994

TO: CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL.
FROM: MARY MCKINNON.

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

1994 JUN 23 PM 4:25

I share your admiration of Cambridge Hospital. I live at 195 Leonard Ave., in the house my grandfather bought about 85 years ago. Many family members were and are cared for, were born and have died at Cambridge Hospital. Many of my closest friends received their R.N. training there. I introduced myself to my medical profession at the age of 14 as a volunteer there 35 years ago in the original building. I remember neighbors who recall sheep grazing on the lawn of that same building. I doubt any City Councillor or Hospital employee has a more longstanding and personal relationship with this Hospital. There is no question in my mind that the altruistic heritage of this institution is vital and needs to continue for Cambridge and surrounding residents.

Cutting through the chaff however, you heard two convincing and earnest arguments on June 13th. One was the Hospital's need for increased space, the other was the neighborhood's plea of what that increased space would do to their lives. The majority of you have listened, as in the past, to one argument while dismissing the other, except for platitudes, at least so far.

I have no problem with the Hospital's need for increased space, this sounds valid, and the present building is sorely in need of extensive renovation. However, to address the neighborhood's concern, why do you look askance at our request that you study alternate sites for most of these clinics? There is nothing that marries the majority of these clinics to the main site, including the Birthing Center. Also most clinics don't need "hospital" type construction, they are more often offices, waiting rooms and exam rooms. Just as the present satellite sites, there is only a code cart required for an unlikely emergency. All lab. work can be sent and the infrequent x-ray can be done as with private Doctor's visits.

There are only two parts of this expansion that of necessity do need to be at the main site: obviously the new, enlarged emergency room and the HIV clinic. An enlargement to the back, getting rid of the old power plant and the trailer park would be a welcome change to the neighborhood. This small increase would negate the need of a garage; unless you opt to expand with a deck on Line Street. Conscientious attempts to put new satellite sites on the Red Line is one meaningful thing you can do for the parking problems of the City in general. That and a state of the art shuttle service to all sites, and a kick in the MBTA's institutional rump to expand bus service. Once-an-hour trips I can outmatch by foot going from the East to West end of the city.

I think it is absolutely essential that an independent feasibility study be done on how a limited expansion on the main site and the development of other sites by leasing some of the extensive, unused Commercial space in Central Square, and Porter Square, etc., the second floor at the East Cambridge Clinic, or by starting from scratch at the CASPAR/Simplex site with their own garage (dispite the proposed subway stop), possible mergers, or use of that huge, near empty building at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Prospect St., ^{and} combinations of the above would affect in reducing overall costs and provide better access to residents. Why are you so reluctant to do this?

Talking to my neighbors, the loss of virtually the last vestige of open space near us and the increased commotion, not to mention 5 years of construction are much bigger issues than parking (which can't be solved except for my previous remarks and City subsidized T passes for employees). Please don't lead us down the Primrose path by suggesting that you can do anything more than this.

I emphasize that this study is essential. I also address Mayor Reeve's quote from June 13 that "Everyone is entitled to health care in their area". PLEASE JUST LOOK AT DOING JUST THAT!

Thank you,

Mary McKinnon

ATTN. CITY CLERK: Please distribute for June 20th City Council Meeting. Thanks.

June 19 1994
RECEIVED BY
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TO: CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MARY MCKINNON

1994 JUN 23 PM 4: 25

CAMBRIDGE MA.

I share your admiration of Cambridge Hospital, 19 Leeward Ave., in the house my grandfather bought about 65 years ago. Many family members were and are cared for, were born and have died at Cambridge Hospital. Many of my closest friends received their R.N. training there. I introduced myself to my medical profession at the age of 14 as a volunteer there 35 years ago in the original building. I remember neighbors who recall sheep grazing on the lawn of that same building. I doubt any City Councillor or Hospital employee has a more longstanding and personal relationship with this Hospital. There is no question in my mind that the altruistic heritage of this institution is vital and needs to continue for Cambridge and surrounding residents.

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FROM: MARY MCKINNON.

RECEIVED BY
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JUN 24 AM 9:56

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Consent Comm. # 28

S-319

Comm. from Mary McKinnon, 19 Leonard Ave.
regarding the hospital expansion.

In City Council,

June 27, 1994

Placed on file