



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor William H. Walsh

May 8, 1989

WHEREAS: Certain property owners in Cambridge, particularly of rent-controlled property, who were a party to sale of the property during 1986, 1987 or 1988 have received a letter and Sales Verification Form for completion and filing sent out under the name of Peter R. Helwig, Revaluation Director, Cambridge Assessing Department; and

WHEREAS: Mr. Helwig's cover letter says, " The enclosed questionnaire (sic) is intended both to verify our records of the transaction and to solicit information which will enable us to determine whether the sale reflects ' true market value ' ", the fact is, not only does the questionnaire's scope of inquiry far exceed the extraction of data which is necessary to accomplish the expressed purpose of the questionnaire and is blatantly irrelevant thereto, but also, by its probing into the property owner's motivational intent, it pushes the parameters for preservation of personal and individual privacy to the brink; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager direct the City Assessors and the Revaluation Director to appear before this Council no later than May 22, 1989 and, having provided each Council member with a copy of the referenced Form prior thereto, be prepared to provide the rationale for each question contained on the Form; identify the person who prepared the questions; specify to whom and for what purpose(s) the signed questionnaires will be distributed, discussed and used; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager advise the Council members as quickly as possible that the requested hearing on this matter has been scheduled as ordered.



City of Cambridge

COUNCILLOR WALSH

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 8, 1989

- WHEREAS:** Certain property owners in Cambridge, particularly of rent-controlled property, who were a party to sale of the property during 1986, 1987 or 1988 have received a letter and Sales Verification Form for completion and filing sent out under the name of Peter R. Helwig, Revaluation Director, Cambridge Assessing Department; and
- WHEREAS:** Mr. Helwig's cover letter says, " The enclosed questionnaire (sic) is intended both to verify our records of the transaction and to solicit information which will enable us to determine whether the sale reflects ' true market value ' ", the fact is, not only does the questionnaire's scope of inquiry far exceed the extraction of data which is necessary to accomplish the expressed purpose of the questionnaire and is blatantly irrelevant thereto, but also, by its probing into the property owner's motivational intent, it pushes the parameters for preservation of personal and individual privacy to the brink; now therefore be it
- ORDERED:** That the City Manager direct the City Assessors and the Revaluation Director to appear before this Council no later than May 22, 1989 and, having provided each Council member with a copy of the referenced Form prior thereto, be prepared to provide the rationale for each question contained on the Form; identify the person who prepared the questions; specify to whom and for what purpose(s) the signed questionnaires will be distributed, discussed and used; and be it further
- ORDERED:** That the City Manager advise the Council members as quickly as possible that the requested hearing on this matter has been scheduled as ordered.

In City Council May 8, 1989.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

C. Walsh order re: City Manager direct the Assessors & Revaluation Director to appear before the Council no later than by May 22nd to discuss a letter & Sales Verification Form received by owners of rent-controlled property who were a party to the sale of the property during 1986, 1987 or 1988.

[Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page, appearing as bleed-through. Some words like "Council", "Assessors", and "Director" are visible.]

In City Council,

May 8, 1989

5-8-89
Schedule

6-21-89

Meeting Held

Site of City Hall

Official Register

Where City Hall is