

City Council
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councilors:

22 July, 1998

As you may know, the federal EPA declined to support the Environmental Justice Grant requested by Alewife Neighbors, Inc. despite the support of the Cambridge City Council for this grant proposal.

I checked the Mass Department of Environmental Protection databases today and saw that both Rindge Towers and Jefferson Park are on the Tier I waste disposal site list (by default).

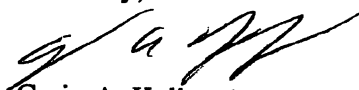
I am not exactly sure what this listing means except that a few thousand of my neighbors are living on top of a couple of disposal sites regulated under Massachusetts hazardous waste laws. I've talked with some residents of these buildings and have heard some awful stories about sicknesses, growths, reproductive problems and so forth. Whether these health complaints have anything to do with the sites' being listed by DEP is a question that merits further investigation.

I urge the City Council to take a strong stance on this issue and work with the City Manager to establish an effective outreach and education program for the residents of these housing complexes concerning these Tier IB listings. I further urge the Council to do whatever it takes to ensure that the residents of these buildings are not impacted by any hazardous waste that may have been deposited at these sites.

I should note that many of the residents of these complexes are not native English speakers and frequently do not have the environmental or legal skills or available funds necessary to tackle environmental problems on their own. In a classic case of environmental justice, the residents need their city's help if they are to understand and properly respond to this environmental threat.

Feel free to call me at 354-8353 if you have any questions about this issue.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Kelley, Esq.
6 Saint Gerard Terrace
Cambridge, MA 02140

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1998 JUL 22 P 2:30

Consent Communication #49 5395

A communication was received from
Craig A. Kelley, transmitting
concern relative to the
Federal EPA's declined support
of the Environmental Justice Grant
requested by Alewife Neighbors, Inc.

In Ctiy Council July 27, 1998

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