

(4)

12 Nov. 1994, 54 Fayette St. Cambridge Ma. 02139

To the City council and editor
Subject: Focus on the "Deserving"

On 10 Nov. 1994 the mayor of Canbridge asked for help in determining how the city should respond to the ending of rent control. Since the 1930's, housing for the "deserving" population has been acknowledged to be a combined Federal, State, and local government responsibility. Accepted federal and state guidelines are well defined and in place. The problem is that the number of subsidies required is less than those available. Political energy must be prioritized and focused on closing this gap. Any other activity such as expansion of the demarcation of who is "deserving" is murky, diversionary and politically inefficient. I offer the following simple, non-controversial, near term 4 step program :

1] Advise all tenants and landlords of their legal rights and options; identify, process, and prioritize the impacted "deserving" population including the identification of landlords and existing housing conditions.

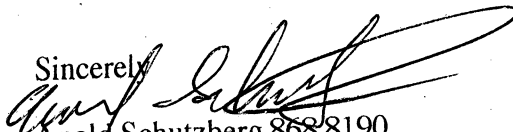
2] Solicit and negotiate a commitment from all Cambridge landlords to meet the reasonable housing requirements of "needs tested" subsidized long term residents.

3] Commit available city resources including new bonds, based on the anticipated real estate tax revenue, to provide an interim emergency rent subsidy for "needs tested" tenants.

4] Petition the state to provide the additional needed housing subsidies for all identified "means tested" residents as soon as is possible; include a request for partial reimbursement to the city for the funds it will have expended to meet this emergency housing problem.

The Governor's position as reported in the 11 Nov 1994 Globe and channel 5 news, suggests that the Boston homerule approach raises false hopes, is doomed, and wasteful of the time and legislative energy it will consume. Let the council, the legislature, and the governor face up to political reality and meet the responsibilities all were elected to perform in a timely and dutyful manner.

Sincerely


Arnold Schutzberg 868 8190

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MA.

Comm. # 4

S-570

Comm. from Arnold Schutzberg, 54 Fayette Street, transmitting his four step program on focusing on the deserving.

In City Council,

November 15, 1994

11/15/94 No action taken

11/16/94 Placed on file