

TO: City Clerk

FROM: R. O. Edbrooke

DATE: NOV. 13, 1989

Please include the enclosed copy of
a letter to Fred Fantini of the
School Committee for the attention
of the City Council. Thank you.

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1989 NOV 13 PM 4:29
CAMBRIDGE MA.

20 Prescott St., #5
Cambridge, MA 02138
November 13, 1989

Alfred Fantini
Cambridge School Committee
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Mr. Fantini:

The outdoor tennis courts at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School require resurfacing. The court surface is separating from the concrete below. I enclose a piece of the court surface which became detached. Sections of the court are loose along the baseline area, especially on Court C near Ellery Street, where people could easily trip and fall, creating liability problems for the city. The damage is concentrated at the south end of all three courts where the water drains. Potholes are opening in these areas.

High school students use the courts for physical education classes in both the Fall and Spring. Last year an additional 50 students played on the men's and women's high school tennis teams. Children age 7 and up use the courts Fall, Spring, and Summer as part of the programs of the Recreation Division of the Department of Human Services. Adults from the community also participate in the Recreation Division's classes and open playing hours.

The tennis courts are the only outdoor active recreational activity allowed in this Mid-Cambridge area since Library Park is a passive recreational area. Not only are repairs immediately required, but now might be a good time to consider adding three more courts at the high school so that athletic and recreational tennis facilities compare more favorably with those of nearby towns.

During the 1988-1989 school year I taught physical education at the high school and was assistant coach of the women's tennis team. I have spoken with Lynne Yeamans and Jack Noble of the CRLS Physical Education Department about the repair program. Jack Noble says he has pointed out the problem before, and it is his suggested date for resurfacing which I suggest. The Coordinating Committee of the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association on November 8, voted to request the City Council and School Committee to fund an immediate, temporary repair and an eventual resurfacing of the courts. I have spoken with Donna Cameron of the Recreation Division, and I hope that the School Committee and the Recreation Division will cooperate to fund the needed repairs for this heavily used educational and recreational facility.

After talking to various parties, I would like to suggest the following repair schedule.

- 1) Immediately (before snow covers the ground and the freezing and thawing create a "heaving" effect which further damages the courts) patch the courts to prevent additional seepage and clean out the drains on the south side of the courts.

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2) During school vacation week next Spring (before the tennis teams and Recreation Division programs are in full swing) resurface the courts. Court B now has a temporary repair of a court-length crack which provides frequent bad bounces.

3) Develop plans for three additional courts at CRLS, perhaps in combination with an extension of the underground garage. Parking is a frequent problem at CRLS, and the neighbors would appreciate on-site spaces for school personnel and visitors. Six tennis courts at CRLS would still be half the total courts at schools like Belmont High School. High school tennis teams now must postpone practice until track and/or softball teams vacate the field house.

Patrons of the city's recreation programs, high school physical education students and athletic team members, and neighbors in Mid-Cambridge would appreciate the immediate funding of these repairs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Robert O. Edbrooke

Robert O. Edbrooke

cc: Cambridge City Council
Donna Cameron
Jack Noble
Lynne Yeamans

6.

8-792

Comm. from Robert O. Edbrooke, 20 Prescott St.,
requesting the tennis courts at Cambridge
Rindge and Latin School be resurfaced.

In City Council,

November 20, 1989

*Referred to City
Manager
Copy sent to C. mgr
11/21/89 (a)*