

CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 7, 1993

To The Honorable Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, we write to comment on the current City Manager evaluation process. The Chamber understands that the City Council's Government Operations Committee has recently discussed methods of receiving public input as well as criteria for the evaluation.

While we understand the Council's desire to consider public input as part the process, the Chamber strongly opposes the inclusion of confidential comment as part of this evaluation. The City Council allows for public testimony, through written consent communications, and oral testimony, on a broad range of issues and has been unswerving in its insistence that those providing testimony identify themselves. To our knowledge, there is no precedent for concealing the identity of any participant on a given public issue. Given the importance of a performance review the criteria for comment on the Manager's evaluation should be conducted in a similar procedure.

Allowing for confidential comment would represent the antithesis of an open and public evaluation process. In addition, unsigned evaluation forms could foster partisan divisiveness that could damage what should be a meaningful and substantive process.

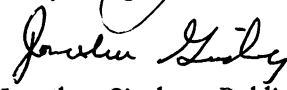
The Chamber also urges the Council to clearly articulate, in advance, the criteria for the review of the Manager. Clarification of the criteria including a relevant job description, and his past performance would help to keep this process focused on important public policy issues. This evaluation should concentrate on the fiscal and policy direction of the city and not be allowed to stray into extraneous and irrelevant areas.

This letter reflects the unanimous vote of the Government and Community Affairs Committee of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important process.

Sincerely,



Tracy Gallagher, Chair Government Community Affairs



Jonathan Ginsberg, Public Affairs Director

1993 JAN - 7 AM 11:37
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

Consent comm. # 9

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Comm. from the Cambridge Chamber of
Commerce requesting the City Council
to clearly articulate in advance the
criteria for the review of the City
Manager.

In City Council,

January 11, 1993

Placed on file