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THE EPISCOPAL CHAPLAINCY

AT HARVARD AND RADCLIFFE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

The Rev. G. Stewart Barns, Chaplain

2 Garden Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Phone: 495-4340

To Members of the Cambridge City Council:

I am an Episcopal clergyman who has lived in Cambridge in rental units for eight years, 1967-70 and 1975-81. During that time I have served as a hospital chaplain and a parish rector. I am currently employed by the Bishop Rhinelander Foundation for College Work, which sponsors an Episcopal Chaplain at Harvard and Radcliffe.

From former ministries in Mattapan Square and Copley Square, as well as my current ministry in Harvard Square, I am quite familiar with and sympathetic to the plight of tenants, especially low income and the elderly, in the Boston-Cambridge area.

While I support the efforts of elected officials to protect low income and elderly tenants from large commercial and institutional enterprises, including the university in which I exercise my ministry, which do not always respect their rights and interests, I would like to go on record as opposed to the manner in which Ordinance 926 in the City of Cambridge, effective August 13, 1979, has been enforced and the currently proposed amendment to that ordinance which would further impinge upon the rights of middle income people to own property in Cambridge.

Ordinance 945 as currently enforced and the currently proposed amendment to it have a punitive effect on middle income citizens of Cambridge like myself who both live and work here and would like to exercise our constitutional right to own property. It also limits a potential source of municipal revenue at a time when it is in the interest of all the citizens of Cambridge to increase revenues in order to maintain essential services.

I strongly urge a more flexible enforcement of Ordinance 945 and strongly oppose any efforts to amend it to make it less flexible. What is at stake in this issue is the potential exclusion through legislation of a segment of the population which is essential to the longrange social and economic stability and progress of the City of Cambridge.

Sincerely yours,

The Reverend G. Stewart Barns

May 12, 1981

Comm. from Rev. G. Stewart Barns in opposition to the present condominium ord. & any amendments to make it less flexible.

In City Council,

May 18, 1981

5-18-81

Referred to the
Rent Control Committee
Copy sent to Committee
on Rent Control 5/19/81 (all)