



City of Cambridge

83.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
 COUNCILLOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 MAYOR DUEHAY
 VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Peter Helwig's contribution to the City of Cambridge is his blend of a unique understanding of urban planning and modern assessment technology. His talents and creative drive have been combined with a deep love and knowledge of, and commitment to, all the neighborhoods of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: While with the Community Development Department from 1969 through 1982, Peter was recognized as one of the City's foremost city planners. As lead city planner he managed a large team of multi-disciplinary planners in the development of a comprehensive city plan for Cambridge — a plan that exerted major influence on quality of life and development in Cambridge. Later, as Deputy Block Grant Coordinator, he developed a high-caliber citizen participation program which has been a model for many other cities. He moved on to direct the City's Community Development Block Grant-funded open space program, managing many successful projects, including the large-scale, complex design and development project for Riverside Press Park, as well as the redesign and reconstruction of Sennott Park; and

WHEREAS: In 1982, Peter made the transition from community planning and development to property tax assessment by stepping forward to lead the City in its fledgling efforts to assess all property in the City at its full and fair cash value for the first time in the City's history. The result is one of the first, and to this day one of a handful, of Assessing Departments in the State which is staffed and equipped to produce 100% fair market values annually exclusively through the efforts of City employees. And Cambridge has had its valuation challenges: rent controlled apartment buildings, limited equity ownership for affordable housing, assisted living developments and housing cooperatives, to mention a few; and

- WHEREAS: Peter Helwig has maintained the high standards he identified for residential property valuation over the course of his 15 years of service as Director of Residential Valuation: consistent application of valuation methods, reasonable consideration of taxpayer concerns and constant interest in and research into real estate market trends in the City of Cambridge. Peter has always made access to assessment information and taxpayer education high priorities. In 1997, the Assessing Department's information booklet, *Tax Facts*, of which Peter Helwig is the author, received the Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers' Public Information Award; and
- WHEREAS: Peter Helwig's service to his country during the Vietnam conflict again exemplifies the energy and effort he could be counted upon to devote to the task at hand. As Base Development Officer, 937 Engineer Group, he was responsible for all Army installation planning and development for one-sixth of Vietnam; and
- WHEREAS: Peter and his wife Donna have two children, Johanna and Alex, and a grandchild, Alex's son Aaron Peter, born this year. Peter's personal interests and pursuits include bee-keeping, gardening, antique restoration, a love of Blue Grass music, and fly-fishing; now therefor be it resolved
- RESOLVED: That because he has long been recognized by his Community Development and City Hall colleagues as a person possessed of an extraordinarily high level of integrity and character, that this City Council go on record as thanking Peter Helwig for the outstanding service and achievement he has rendered to the City of Cambridge.

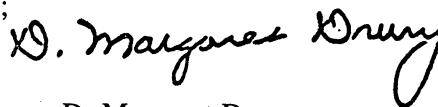
In City Council April 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

all

83

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April 23, 1998

Resolution
PROCLAMATION

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RESOLVED: That ^{because he} Peter Helwig has long been recognized by his Community Development and City Hall colleagues as a person possessed of an extraordinarily high level of integrity and character, *that this City Council go on record as thanking*
Peter Helwig for the outstanding service he and achievement
he has rendered to the City of Cambridge

VV9

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In City Council April 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

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D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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Consent Order #83

R-523

Councillor Russell and entire membership
re: resolution on Peter Helwig for his
outstanding service.

In City Council April 27, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED