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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER  
*Assistant City Manager for  
Community Development*

ELIZABETH EPSTEIN  
*Deputy Director for  
Community Development*

November 14, 1996

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Susan B. Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development

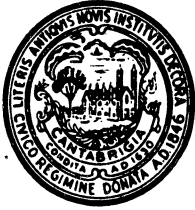
Subject: Response to City Council inquiry of 10/21/96 re: tot lot at Charles Park

Charles Park, located along Edwin Land Boulevard between Rogers Street and CambridgeSide Place, was created through the Planned Unit Development review process; the land for the park was donated by three different developers (Lotus, New England Development-CambridgeSide Galleria, and H. J. Davis-River Court Housing), who also provided money for design, construction, and ongoing maintenance in accordance with the provisions of their Developer Agreements with the City of Cambridge.

During design review for the Lotus building, the City encouraged Lotus to locate their day care facility at the base of their building to help animate the park. Concurrently, in the design process for Charles Park, accommodations were made for a small tot lot located near the Rogers Street end of the park and adjacent to the Lotus building. While Lotus uses this facility as per agreement with the City, it is required that this tot lot be accessible to the general public.

After opening their new building, Lotus found that they needed additional space for tot lot activities, and decided to use their private courtyard for this purpose; this space is completely private and is not open to the public.

Upon receipt of the Council Order inquiring as to the status of the Charles Park tot lot, my staff have communicated with Lotus officials, who confirmed that they understand the requirement that the Charles Park facility be open to the public. They mentioned that people do ask to use their courtyard facility, but that is on private property and they are unwilling to be liable for public use of that space.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

November 25, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 10, regarding a report on the access to the tot lot at Charles River Park, received from Assistant City Manager for Community Development Susan Schlesinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #6

S-592

Transmitting communication relative to  
Awaiting Report Item Number Ten, regarding  
a report on the access to the tot lot at  
Charles River Park.

original order #5 of  
10-21-96

See 461 CM of 10-21-96

In City Council November 25, 1996

**PLACED ON FILE**