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August 7, 1990

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CAMBRIDGE, MA.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

Last night, I received notice from Harvard that they intend to go forward with "site clearance" and construction on the Gulf Station project.

The last time I heard Harvard referring to "site clearance", it included the destruction of two major street trees and of every piece of vegetation remaining on the Gulf Station lot.

I find it highly arrogant (and I thought illegal) for Harvard to proceed with a project which includes destruction of city property without permission and public hearing of the city council. AT MINIMUM, THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE PURPOSE OF MAYOR WOLF'S AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC PROPERTY'S LAWS.

Harvard's project includes construction to the lot line underground. This almost certainly involves digging up city property, the sidewalk. THEY SEEM TO BE GOING FORWARD WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, UNDER THAT PUBLIC PROPERTY LAW OR ORDINARY COMMON LAW, to tear up public property, that sidewalk and the land under it.

The City has no DIRECT power over the destruction of those major bushes and trees ON SITE. The city has direct power over the use of public property and destruction of public property (street trees) by irresponsible developers who demand that they build projects which go to the absolute maximum allowed under zoning. IF A DEVELOPER IRRESPONSIBLY DEMANDS ITS ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RIGHTS, THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR THE CITY TO GIVE THAT DEVELOPER ANYTHING.

Harvard devastated DeWolf Street, destroying at least six one hundred year old street trees. I assumed this was approved by the city council when I was not looking. I have been looking for city council approvals on the Gulf site, and I am not aware that they have occurred.

Harvard has expropriated Grant Street as part of its construction site on DeWolf because it, in its greed, has left no room on site to do support work. Have they simply stolen Grant Street? Have they simply stolen the six one hundred year old street trees? Have they simply stolen the city sidewalk which they have dug up and enclosed by fences?

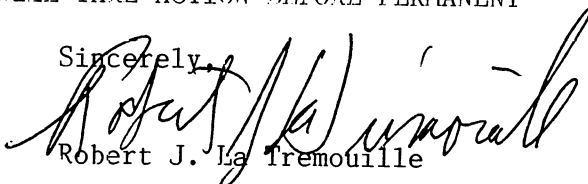
Is this planned for the Gulf project?

Plenty can be done to require responsible construction on the Gulf site. Harvard's timing is obviously aimed at preventing City Council action without a special meeting.

I HOPE THAT THIS HIGHLY VISIBLE SITE IS NOT DEVASTATED AS HARVARD DID DEWOLF. I HOPE THAT THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE DOES NOT ASSIST THIS DEVASTATION AS CAMBRIDGE DID ON THE IRRESPONSIBLE DEWOLF PROJECT.

I HOPE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL WILL TAKE ACTION BEFORE PERMANENT DESTRUCTION IS DONE.

Sincerely,


Robert J. La Tremouille

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Comm. from Robert J. LaTremouille, 348
Franklin St., regarding the proposed
construction at the Gulf Station site.

In City Council,

Sept. 10, 1990

Placed on file