



City of Cambridge

R-121.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 1999

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

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record wishing a speedy recovery to George Bruno; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to George Bruno on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 13, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "ATTEST:-".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

M-S.
All

(181)

✓

Resolved: That the C-C go on record

Wishing ^a speedy
recovery to George
Brunt.

vv9

The law department of the City of Cambridge recently closed the complaint files, even to Freedom of Information Act applicants. You can verify this with the Cambridge Chronicle. This goes against the prevailing national trend toward more openness of public records, including police misconduct complaint records, and it violates the trust YOU, CPRAB, have placed in the CPD. Were you consulted on this change in policy? Did you "advise" the CPD and the law department on this action? Was Sean the first to suffer at the hands of certain Cambridge policemen? I have heard from outside sources that officers Townes and Brutley and Hussey had had earlier complaints filed against them. Surely your board ought to have checked whatever way you could to see if these individuals had prior records.

Your board was set up to guard public safety. The temptation to be guided by an authority figure who appoints you is immense, I realize. My husband serves on a state board in RI and has confronted the problem of the reluctance of fellow board members to advise against policies set by the appointing official. The influence is subtle. Are you being influenced by the city manager and others to protect the city from lawsuits rather than protect citizens from violent and dishonest police? How much has the City paid in settlements and legal expenses to protect rogue policemen in recent years? Do you or does anyone else know the cost to taxpayers of continued negligence regarding police brutality? Does the gag rule imposed in settlements prevent the City Council from knowing the actual financial figures?

Have you, Mr. Price and other members of the board, studied the recent complaint(s) filed with you by Jefferson Park defendants? Have you noted the reports that Cambridge police officers in that incident BRAGGED ABOUT HAVING KILLED A MAN AND GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT"? One of the Jefferson Park mothers said that when her child reported that to her, she thought at once, "Was that victim Sean Sumner?"

If that dead man was Sean, and if that police officer is bragging about his immunity from punishment or prosecution, I hold CPRAB directly responsible. Your handling of this case seems to have served to strengthen the code of silence that protects rogue officers from being identified, disciplined, reassigned or dismissed. Isn't this dangerous not only for citizens but also for honest police officers who constitute the majority on the force?

Does no one care about the safety of young people, teens, gays, music lovers, tourists, and children of residents, who currently are treated as prey by a few members of the CPD? How can one of the world's foremost centers of learning and rationality tolerate the kind of barbarity that many Cantabrigians worry about as a threat to civil liberties and personal safety?

I hope that you will consider it to be in the best interests of the citizens of Cambridge for you to hold a full-scale hearing on our case before 10 November, the date requested in our petition. I plan to ask the Cambridge City Council to request that you comply with this request and that you cooperate with me fully in making certain that the defendants in this complaint and all relevant witnesses will be present for questioning at that hearing.

Sincerely,



Nan McCowan Sumner-Mack 401-333-4964 (h) 508-699-0122 (w) <rsm@loa.com> FAX 508-699-8075



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A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Resolution #121

10/3/99

Councillor Sullivan and entire
membership re: wish a speedy recovery
to George Bruno.

In City Council September 13, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED