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SEP 17 4 43 PM '73

The new jail facility on the top four floors of the nearly completed Middlesex County Court House in East Cambridge leaves much to be desired. My views on the new jail are well known, and I am only accepting the facility under protest because there is little that can be done to alter the design of the structure at this late date. I was never consulted regarding the construction of this jail and the ³300 recommended changes I have submitted to improve the jail have been ignored.

I believe we can live with the new jail by using a creative approach to correct the inherent problems the jail presents.

In terms of security, the jail will function fairly well and should represent no additional security risks to the residents of East Cambridge. The jail was designed with only security in mind and the possibility of escape from the facility have, from a design standpoint, been kept as low as is humanly possible, but no facility is escape proof.

For the last eight years the Sheriff's Office has been forced to transport via van all pre-trial detainees to and from the Superior Court from the temporary jail in Billerica, twenty-five miles away. The transport of prisoners on public ways has traditionally been the most vulnerable to security breakdowns. These Prisoners are transported right through the streets of East Cambridge. It is a credit to

the men in the Sheriff's Department that of the 65,000 men moved over the last eight years, no one has ever escaped. With the completion of the new jail we will no longer have to follow this hazardous procedure. This will cut down on the possibility of escape, and accordingly, minimize the dangers to the citizens of East Cambridge.

It is my understanding that a member of Council has expressed concern about my proposal to house some prisoners from Suffolk County. This proposal has been made with the recent decision handed down by Federal Judge Garrity on the Charles Street Jail in mind which I anticipated over three years ago. Judge Garrity's opinion calls for Suffolk County to have no more than one man per cell by this November and will finally result in the closing of that facility by June of 1976. It is reasonable to expect most of these prisoners will be ordered to the new facility in Cambridge. I have two choices: to take the prisoners under a court order with no payment to Middlesex County for the cost or to work with the officials of Suffolk County to develop a plan which would reimburse Middlesex County the fair cost of housing these extra prisoners.

In anticipation of this inevitability, I have been working with officials from both Counties to develop such a plan- one which would save the taxpayers of the county money.

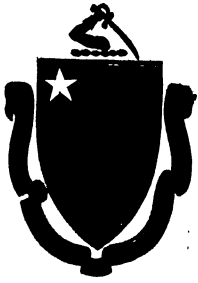
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I can assure the Council the number of inmates housed under such a plan will be within the capacity called for by the design of the building.

The parking situation around the building is certainly a problem, but is the responsibility of the County Commissioners. I will work in cooperation with them to alleviate the parking problems the new building presents.

Sincerely,

John J. Buckley
Sheriff



JOHN J. BUCKLEY
SHERIFF

RECEIVED BY
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY
BILLERICA, MASS. 01821

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

September 17, 1973

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

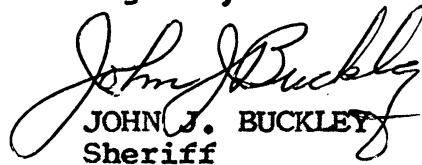
Dear Mr. Healy,

I regret that I will be unable to accept the invitation of the Cambridge City Council to attend a meeting on September 17, 1973 due to a prior scheduled commitment.

I have enclosed a short statement addressing the subject matter of interest to the Council. This outlines my position in regard to the confinement of prisoners in the new Superior Court House facility in East Cambridge and the issue of parking around this new building.

Would you please assure that the City Council receives the enclosure?

Regards,


JOHN J. BUCKLEY
Sheriff

JJB:cc

Enclosure

CC: County Commissioners

#16

351

Statement of Sheriff John Buckley
regarding confinement of prisoners

In City Council,

September 17, 1973

Placed on File

Meeting for Nov 24th

To be recognized

by the City

Clerk

File