

Save Our Neighborhood

13

November 28, 1994

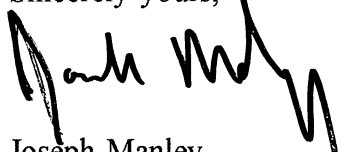
Ms. Margaret Drury
Cambridge City Clerk
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

I hereby request that the enclosed letter be incorporated into the permanent records of the Cambridge City Council as an official communication.

As always, I appreciate your assistance and cooperation.

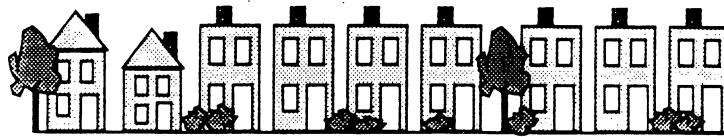
Sincerely yours,



Joseph Manley
Save Our Neighborhood

Attachment

JPM/hd



Save Our Neighborhood

November 28, 1994

Mr. John O'Brien
Administrator
Cambridge Hospital
1493 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

This is to advise you that I resigned as Chairman of SON effective November 8, 1994.

I have recently been fortunate enough to have especially rewarding opportunities arise in both my professional careers: languages and music. At the same time, urgent time demands in both professions have become extremely pressing.

I therefore feel it best to resign, at a time when SON can well continue without me.

There will undoubtedly be a transition phase of sorts. I would like to think that your institution will react to that transition appropriately.

I shall continue to monitor the situation vigilantly as a citizen and member, and maintain contacts with neighbors, elected officials, and legal counsel.

Certainly, any parties who might think that my departure affords any special opportunities for gains that run counter to SON policies may well find themselves unpleasantly surprised.

At this juncture, it is appropriate to point out that I have always been the principal person in the Somerville neighborhood who pushed for negotiation, rather than simply oppose your expansion project. As I told you in August 1993 when we started negotiations, Cambridge Hospital had a historic opportunity not only to reconcile itself with the neighborhood and the City of Somerville on this project, but also to begin to heal old wounds. Cambridge Hospital has now missed that opportunity.

Given that your present building already creates excessive neighborhood density by Cambridge's own zoning standards, it is necessary for any projected Hospital building to be below the maximum square footage allowable under zoning laws before the Hospital's land grab on Camelia Avenue. Instead, you have always insisted on building to the absolute maximum, and even grabbed significantly more land to increase that maximum. That is not compromise. That is aggression.

The lack of prospects and willingness on your part to make such a compromise are an ancillary and supporting reason for concluding my work is done and I should resign. As Chairman, I was perhaps your last best hope for a compromise that would avoid more dire consequences.

19 Leonard Avenue • Cambridge, Massachusetts • 02139 • Tel. (617) 491-5122

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Fax (617) 864-1666

Letter of November 28, 1994 to Mr. John O'Brien

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Any such consequences in the future you will have brought on your institution by your own actions--let there be no mistake about it. Time will tell what your obstinacy means for your institution. I personally know for a fact that the likelihood of negative consequences is quite high.

I also want to take this opportunity to state for the record that your assertion at our meeting last August 18, 1994 that you never pursued Hospital occupancy at 120 Beacon Street, Somerville after neighborhood opposition became apparent, is factually incorrect. Your own face-to-face statements and those of your staff to me and other SON members in August, September, and October 1993 contradict that absolutely. As well, there is a great deal of other independent evidence that contradicts your assertion. Both that evidence and your statements at the time were documented in contemporary memoranda to Mayor Capuano during the aforementioned period. I warn and advise you of the obvious consequences of continuing to make such assertions in flagrant disregard of the facts.

If your institution has any future problems with the City of Somerville, this is but one example of why the reasons will not be hard to find.

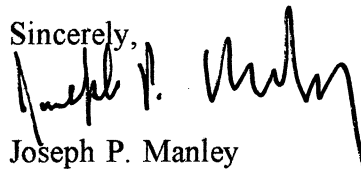
One final personal note.

As I related to you in the fall of 1993, no one could be more predisposed to support what a hospital does than myself. I was literally born into the hospital industry. My father spent his entire career in the hospital and physician supply business, both with his own firm and as an executive. I was in fact named for a major client, St. Joseph's Hospital, and my younger brother was named for the administrator and chief of obstetrics there. During his long career, my father supplied every conceivable item for hospital construction and expansions. My great-grandfather was a doctor who gave his life in the fight against infectious diseases. I still have immediate family in the disciplines of psychology and speech pathology. I and my neighbors are of, with and for health care. The problem is that your management and your project are not in the best interests of health care. We are for good health care and good public policy. Your administration offers neither.

My conversations with Cambridge Hospital nurses during their recent picketing showed me that they completely share our experiences and perspectives.

All of us who care about health care hope that one day things can change.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Manley

cc: Mayor Michael E. Capuano
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Clerk
SON members

S-564

Consent Communication #13

A comm. was received from Jospeh Manley
of Save Our Neighborhood regarding his
resignation from SON.

In City Council December 12, 1994

Placed on file