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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

1151 Mass Ave
Cambridge 02138

May 19, 1985



576-1006

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

To the Honorable; the City Council:

As part of the agreement in principle with the Cambridge Rent Control Board to obtain removal permits for Craigie Apartments, Harvard University agreed to establish a loan fund. A loan fund for the rehabilitation of housing in the city represents a major piece of housing policy, and, we believe, rightly belongs before the City Council and the public.

Instead, though, all discussion of the nature and operation of this fund has been held completely in secret, despite assurances by representatives of the Community Development Department that it would not. Only last week, the chair of the Rent Board, claiming that the entire matter fell under the cloak of litigation, denied the request of one member of the Board to allow for public discussion.

From what we have been able to learn, this closed process is leading to significant and substantive defects in the program. If, as it seems, Harvard is creating an investment fund that it will hold and control, through which it will obtain detailed financial data about small owners of Cambridge property who use the fund, and by means of which the university may be in a position to assume ownership of certain of these properties should the owners default on their loans, then our worst fears about this fund will have been realized.

The Rent Board's chair has asserted that the Board will vote on a final agreement this Wednesday, May 22; an executive session on Craigie Apartments has been scheduled for that evening. Thus, we ask that we be allowed to address the Council on this matter of housing policy on Monday, May 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael H. Turk

Michael H. Turk
(for) Cambridge Rent Control Coalition

Copy to
Hewitt Armshead
Office of Govt & Int. Affairs
Harvard University
2 Garden Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
May 20, 1985

Councilor Wolf

Ordered:

That it is the sense of the City
Council that the Rent Control Board conduct
a public hearing relative to the Renting
Loan Fund which will be established between
the Rent Control Board and Harvard University
regarding the Craig Apartments

APV



City of Cambridge

18.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 1985

COUNCILLOR WOLF

ORDERED: That it is the sense of the City Council that the Rent Control Board conduct a public hearing relative to the Revolving Loan Fund which will be established between the Rent Control Board and Harvard University regarding the Craigie Apartments.

In City Council May 20, 1985.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton

Joseph E. Connarton, Deputy City Clerk.

C. Wolf order re: that the Rent Control Board
conduct a public hearing Re: Revolving Loan
Fund to be established between the Rent Control
Board & Harvard University regarding the Craigie
Apartments.

5/20/85

CW Order Adopted
S-

In City Council,

May 20, 1985

copy of order sent to Roger Mervin, Exec. Dir.
of the Rent Control Board 5/22/85 mlh
Also copy sent to Lewis Amistead Gov't & Community
Affairs office at Harvard this date.