



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
CITY COUNCIL

ROBERT P. MONCREIFF
CITY COUNCILOR

May 22, 1970
In City Council

Five members of This Council have apparently decided to fire Jim Sullivan. For many reasons which I will want to express at a later time, I believe Their move is a disastrous disservice to Cambridge, and I hope one or more of Them will listen and reconsider. But at This stage, I simply want to make some observations on the procedure set forth in our city charter for changing city managers.

A majority of This Council has the legal right at any time to remove a city manager. But before They may do so, They must give him, if he asks for it, a written statement of Their reasons, and They must give him a public hearing. At That hearing, like



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any other public hearing of This Council,
The citizens of This city are entitled
to appear and be heard.

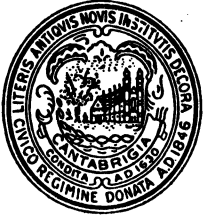
Now I do not propose to turn
This process into a procedural
Three-ring circus so long as it is
conducted fairly. The removal of
The city manager will leave enough
distress in Cambridge without that.
But I am going to insist that
the city manager and the public
be given time to consider the
reasons stated against the manager,
and that the required hearing be
scheduled with adequate notice at a
time convenient to the public. I
am, in short, going to insist on
orderly democratic procedure in
accordance with our city charter.



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I hope The manner in which This meeting was called is not an indication of Things to come. I personally have never received written notice of This meeting, though I assume That was an oversight. Much more important, the 24-hour public notice required by the Public Meeting Law (G.L.C. 39 s. 23A) was simply not given. And The mayor permitted The entire city council to sit through a dinner meeting last night on public business until after 10 o'clock, while notices were being delivered (to everyone but me) without saying a word about This meeting. Finally, was it really necessary to call This important meeting at 5 p.m. on The Friday of a holiday weekend? That's kid's stuff!



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The debate over Jim Sullivan's
managership will be an occasion
for candor, but it is also an
occasion for fairness and restraint.
I will try, for myself, to
keep that in mind, and I hope
others will do likewise.

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Statement
By Councillor Moncreiff