



City of Cambridge

Calendar Item # 1

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IN CITY COUNCIL

--March 18, 1991--
March 25, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: The President of Local 3578, City Inspectors, has expressed some seemingly long-suppressed concerns of the Local's members in the attached memorandum in response to the content of the publication entitled, "Rent Control Reform in Cambridge" penned by Richard Thompson Ford and disseminated by Councillor Myers and Vice Mayor Reeves February 25, 1991; and

WHEREAS: Not least in importance among the requests from Local 3578's President which calls for prompt City Council response is the memorandum's final sentence, "The members of Local 3578 would like very much to address your concerns at your convenience and put together solutions to better serve the people of Cambridge and their families"; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager invite the President and Officers of Local 3578 to come before this entire City Council as soon as possible at a regularly scheduled City Council Session for the purpose of clearing the air by having a frank and constructive discussion about the issues which have been raised in both the publication's text and Local 3578's response thereto; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council with a date certain for this discussion by March 25, 1991.

REFERRED TO THE CITY MANAGER



City of Cambridge

1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH

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CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR MYERS.



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9094

BY HAND

March 7, 1991

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

FROM: David Noonan, for
Councillor Walsh *DN*

RE: Council Order (NON CONSENT AGENDA)
March 18, 1991

I am enclosing a Council Order (2 page attachment annexed thereto) regarding Local 3578's Officers being invited to come before the Council in regular session which Councillor Walsh requests be included in the NON CONSENT AGENDA for the Council Session of March 18, 1991.

Your customary courtesy and cooperation are much appreciated.

(ENCLOSURE)



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

March 18, 1991

WHEREAS: The President of Local 3578 (city inspectors) has expressed some seemingly long-suppressed concerns of the Local's members in the attached memorandum in response to the content of the publication entitled, Rent Control Reform in Cambridge, penned by Richard Thompson Ford and disseminated by Councillors Reeves and Myers on February 25, 1991; and

WHEREAS: Not least in importance among the requests from Local 3578's president which calls for prompt Council response is the memorandum's final sentence, " The members of Local 3578 would like very much to address your concerns at your convenience and put together solutions to better serve the people of Cambridge and their families " ; now therefore be it

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(Attachment - 2 pages)

TO: HONORABLE COUNCILLORS MYERS AND REEVES
FROM: ANTHONY PINI, PRESIDENT LOCAL 3578
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT RENT CONTROL BD. PAGES 15-18

Dear Councillors,

On page sixteen paragraph four, you suggest we are not aggressive enough and that Tenants point out the problems and ask us to write them down. Well, unfortunately, our job is to respond to their complaint and provide the service for that need. Our job is not to write-up hair line cracks in walls or a dripping faucet, our job is to provide the minimum standard of living for human habitation but hopefully better. We as inspectors give a time table for repairs to be done anywhere from seven to twenty-one days with visits on every seventh working day, if the job is not done in allotted time, we refer to court and our person works diligently to get these hearings moving fast and with compliance within a reasonable time thereafter. Unfortunately, our hands are tied, when, we can not impose a stiff fine on a daily basis until completed. You see it is not the inspectors lack of aggressivness on enforcing the law maybe, it is the councils lack of communication to come and sit with the inspectors (Local 3578) and come to a solution for a quicker landlord response. I find one's pocketbook usually vulnerable. You talk of solutions and communication but I have never once seen any council member approach the members of Local 3578 asking OUR ideas or solutions. We have been the councils whipping boy on several occasions and we have bitten our tongue in hopes you would come and talk and help seek out a solution but you don't you only put out newspaper comments and subcommittee reports of criticism.

You did a subcommittee report on our unit and with an existing union you did not ask for our input and I read the report and only criticism comes from it.

Page 17 paragraph 2 sentence

"your right, finger, pointing never did serve the highest purpose," only when you are doing the pointing. You say we are dysfunctional (not operating properly) I say an owner will respond quickly, when, you impose fines on his/her pocketbook, I say take a stand for what, you believe, impose an ordinance to fine, when a reasonable allotted period of time has gone by to do repairs of course for those who truly are violators continuously.

Page 17 paragraph 3 sentence 3

"Training of all building and health code inspectors is not a level which permits all inspectors to recognize all code violations during on site inspection." Each inspector is human and each has his/her own interpretation, each has strong beliefs on these things a malfunctioning toilet is more important than a hair line crack in a wall.

Page 17 paragraph 3 last sentence

Six or seven different inspectors and 2 or 3 at one time." Usually this is a Team inspection Code Enforcement Inspector, plumbing or wiring and building inspector. Always someone who is relatively knowledgeable in their area. Also, if different on the second time around usually original inspector on vacation or out sick.

The members of Local 3578 would like very much to address your concerns at your convenience and put together solutions to better serve the people of Cambridge and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony", with a stylized flourish at the end.



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March 18, 1991

COUNCILLOR WALSH

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Order # 1.

F-185

NON-CONSENT

Councillor Walsh re: context of publication
entitled Rent Control Reform in Cambridge.

In City Council,

March 18, 1991.

3/18/91

Charter Right
exercised by

Councillor Myers

3/25/91 Referred to the
City Manager.