

RECEIVED BY
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Jonathan Strom
1987 AUG - 3 AM 10:45
Siri Olson
67 Hammond St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
CAMBRIDGE MA.

July 29, 1987

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

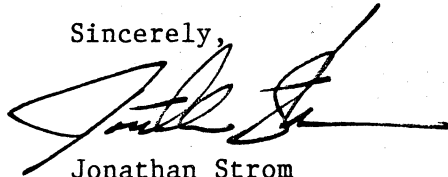
Members of the City Council:

This is in response of your letter of July 16, requesting our presence at the August 3, hearing concerning the property at 67 Hammond Street in Cambridge. Unfortunately, neither of us will be able to attend the hearing. I will be out of town at the beginning of that week and my wife, Siri Olson, has a prior commitment. I am, however, somewhat unsure as to the purpose of the hearing, or what you expect us to contribute to it. Is this a hearing about whether 67 Hammond St. should be registered as a rent controlled building as defined in the Cambridge City Ordinances? Is it a hearing to determine whether the process which determines rent control status is fair? Or does the city council intend to raise issues of whether rent control as it stands is an appropriate policy for housing in Cambridge?

If the hearing concerns the first two questions, let me first say that I stand by the testimony given at the first hearing which is available in the Hearing Examiner's report. Second, I feel it is inappropriate for the City Council to interfere with a process that is still ongoing. Mr. Pu has chosen to appeal the Rent Control Board's ruling to the District Court. Before addressing such questions, the City Council should wait until the District Court case is settled and the outcome of the case final.

Should the City Council wish to hold hearings about the broader issues of a rent control policy in Cambridge, I would gladly participate in such a discussion. Rent control presents problems to a community that demands close attention of both tenants and landlords. However, the status of 67 Hammond St. is not the proper context in which to begin such a discussion, and I resent the fact that the Council wishes to interfere at this point with the process the Council itself has established for determining rent control status.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Strom

cc: Joseph E. Connarton

34.

S-482

Comm. from Jonathan Strom stating that both
he & Siri Olson will be unable to attend
this evening's hearing Re: 67 Hammond St.

In City Council,

August 3, 1987

*Referred to Hearing,
Scheduled 8/3/87 @ 6 p.m.*