

B"H

September 25, 1997

To the City Council of Cambridge,

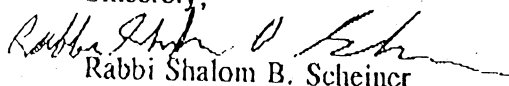
As representatives of Chabad, an organization promoting the furtherance of Jewish education, we would like to request a permit for two matters which are of essential interest to the Jewish population of Cambridge.

The first matter concerns the upcoming Jewish festival of Sukkot which begins October 15th and continues until the 22nd. During this holiday, Jewish people build and dwell within portable huts called sukkahs to commemorate the clouds of glory which protected the Jewish people throughout our journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai where we received the Torah and the seal of our nationhood. On the days of October 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1997, we would like to construct one of these portable huts in Harvard Square to offer the Jewish public a hands-on experience of the commandments and beauty of this festival. The sukkah will be open to all interested passersby who will have a chance to sit inside, eat, receive information and literature, and perform the commandments of the holiday within it. We plan to build the sukkah with dimensions of four feet wide and six feet high near the phones on the left-hand side of the entrance to the red line in front of the old Bank of Boston. However, we are flexible to suggestions for a building space which might be less obstructive to pedestrians. In addition, the sukkah will be constantly attended, and removed overnight.

The second matter concerns the construction of a Chanukah menorah which will be used to conduct public Chanukah candle-lighting ceremonies for the duration of the festival of Chanukah from December 23rd - 31st. The Chanukah menorah and its public lighting is a symbol of the miraculous salvation of G-d and the eternal victory of the weak over the powerful from the midst of darkness and despair. The kindling of the Chanukah lights every year shows the eternal relevance of a story in which faith in G-d, despite all odds, literally transforms darkness into light, natural into miraculous. The dimensions of the menorah will be six feet high by four feet wide, and its location will be near the phones on the left-hand side of the entrance to the red line in front of the old Bank of Boston, but again we are flexible about the exact location and welcome a better suggestion by the city if one should arise. The menorah will be left unattended during the day and will remain standing overnight for the duration of the festival as its symbolic impact will surely enrich passersby.

Thank you for your prompt attention and commitment to the necessary furtherance of Jewish education in Cambridge. With wishes for a sweet and happy New Year.

Sincerely,


Rabbi Shalom B. Scheiner
Director, Chabad of Cambridge

H-189

Communication was received from Rabbi Shalom B. Scheiner, Director, Chabad of Cambridge, transmitting a letter requesting a permit to erect a portable hut in Harvard Square and a permit to construct a Chanukah menorah which will be used to conduct public Chanukah candle-lighting ceremonies.

In City Council September 29, 1997

Referred to
City manager
with power

10-1-97
copy
plnt
mc