

City of Cambridge

Councillor Graham

7.

In City Council,
January 17, 1972.

WHEREAS:-

The Board of Zoning Appeal of the City of Cambridge filed with the City Clerk on January 12, 1972, a decision which grants the petition of Research Row Realty Co. to vary the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to the premises known as 808 Memorial Drive, and

WHEREAS:-

This decision will permit the development of some 340 units of high rise luxury apartments which will further isolate the Riverside Cambridgeport Neighborhood from the Charles Riverfront, will permit the reconstruction of three nonconforming automobile service stations at one of the most congested intersections of the City, and will contribute heavily to speculative pressures on Riverfront land and adjoining neighborhood housing resources, and

WHEREAS:-

The Riverside Cambridgeport Neighborhood has solidly and vehemently opposed this proposal as destructive of neighborhood character and totally unresponsive to pressing neighborhood needs, and

WHEREAS:-

The Planning Board, after careful and thorough study, has concluded that the proposal would represent a blatant misuse of the invaluable Riverfront land resources and a serious detriment to the best interests of both the Riverside Cambridgeport Neighborhood and the City as a whole, and

WHEREAS:-

This proposal could seriously undermine the efforts of the Riverside Cambridgeport Community Corporation, charged by this City Council and financially supported by the City of Cambridge to explore and exploit the means available to relieve the severe housing pressures on the low and moderate income families of the Neighborhood, and

WHEREAS:-

This City Council finds that the proposal involves issues far beyond the province of the Board of Zoning Appeal to decide, and

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WHEREAS: -

The assumption by the Riverside Cambridgeport Neighborhood of the costs of seeking legal remedy through the courts would represent an intolerable and unfair burden, and

WHEREAS:-

The provisions of Article I, Section 4, Paragraph 10 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge require that appeals to Superior Court for relief from a decision of the Board of Zoning Appeal be filed with said Court; within twenty days following the day of filing of the decision with the City Clerk, in this case such twenty days lapsing on February 1, 1972, therefore be it

ORDERED:-

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer immediately with the City Solicitor toward the end of preparing a legal challenge ~~in behalf of this City Council~~ to the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeal in the so-called 808 Memorial Drive case, and be it further

ORDERED:-

That the City Solicitor be and hereby is requested to attend the next meeting of the City Council to report on progress on the preparation of this case and to discuss the legal financial and administrative issues involved.

City Council Jan. 17, 1972
as amended
Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 7 members

Paul E. Healey
City Clerk

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7.

ORDER

City Manager requested to confer with City Solicitor relative to preparing a legal challenge in behalf of the City Council to Board of Appeal decision regarding 808 Memorial Drive.

January 17, 1972

Mrs. Graham