



City of Cambridge

4.

IN CITY COUNCIL
February 28, 1994

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR MYERS
MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: **Walta Borawski**, poet, critic, and activist, died of complications from AIDS on February 9, 1994 at his Cambridge home; and

WHEREAS: For over twenty years, Walta Borawski contributed his energy, intelligence, and talent to the cause of lesbian and gay civil rights; and

WHEREAS: Walta took great pride in his identity as an openly gay man, in his working class background, and in his enormous commitment to sexual and political liberation; and

WHEREAS: Walta's vast literary talent was exhibited in a wide spectrum of arenas, including his poetry, essays, reviews and criticism which appeared locally and nationally in numerous gay and lesbian publications in several anthologies, and in mainstream publications; and

WHEREAS: Walta's distinctive writing and theatrical style, informed by his great love of opera, female jazz singers and vocalists, will be long-remembered by his many audiences at conferences, college campuses, political rallies, poetry readings; and

WHEREAS: His participation as a critic and a performer at several OutWrite Conferences, Lesbian and Gay Studies conferences and Boston's First Night celebrations was always met with warmth and acclaim; and

WHEREAS: Walta recently celebrated the publication of his latest book, entitled **Lingering In a Silk Shirt**; and

WHEREAS: Prior to his retirement on disability two years ago, he worked for fourteen years as the administrative assistant to Dr. Ernst Myer, a noted evolutionary biologist and historian of science at Harvard University, and prior to that as the personal secretary for poet Denise Levertov; and

WHEREAS: The gay and lesbian community is extremely proud to acknowledge Walta Borawski's contributions to the culture of this community; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this Cambridge City Council extends heartfelt sympathy to Walta's lover of nineteen years, writer Michael Bronski as well as to his many close friends and his parents, Walter and Edna Libi Borawski of Patchogue, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to present a suitable engrossed copy of this resolution to Michael Bronski on behalf of the entire Cambridge City Council.

In City Council February 28, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
1994 FEB 16 PM 1:10
CAMBRIDGE MA

Councilor Katherine Triantafyllou

February 21, 1994

WHEREAS: WALTA BORAWSKI, poet, critic, and activist, died of complications from AIDS on February 9, 1994, at his Cambridge home; and

WHEREAS: For over twenty years, Walta Borawski contributed his energy, intelligence, and talent to the cause of lesbian and gay civil rights;

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Born, myers, Rues

Consent Order #4

R-130

Councillor Triantafillou re: Death
resolution on Walta Borawski.

Order Adopted

In City Council,

February 28, 1994