

Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee

320 CAMBRIDGE STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

November 5, 1980

Mayor Francis Duehay and
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Attention: Mr. Paul Healy, City Clerk

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee would like to appear before the City Council to discuss the issue of the Market Street Playground, which is located in the Wellington-Harrington community.

As you may know, the Market Street Playground was constructed under the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Plan in 1970, and has been a well-utilized, well-maintained playground for many years. In recent years, the playground and the surrounding neighborhood have become a gathering spot for teenagers, who vandalize the area and greatly disturb the neighbors.

Many people have attempted to deal with the problem, including homeowners and tenants in the neighborhood, the WHCC, the CRA, and other organizations. A number of actions have been taken ranging from requesting greater police presence, to requesting the assistance of youth-serving agencies, to actually arranging for a paid police detail through the CRA.

In spite of these efforts, the problem remains. It has come to the point that a number of people in the community are asking the CRA to dismantle the playground and re-develop the site for housing or some other use. We feel this would be very unfortunate, because the playground is still needed to serve the neighborhood children. Furthermore, we do not want to accede to a group of vandals and rowdies and allow them to dictate land use in a neighborhood.

Removal of the playground would be an admission that the City cannot maintain order on its public open spaces. We hope that

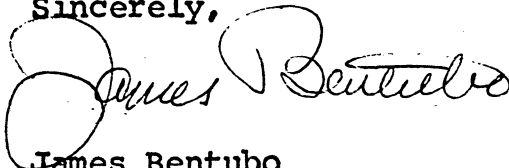
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Cambridge City Council
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something can be done to ease the problems on Market Street, so that we don't have to make this admission.

We would very much appreciate your scheduling a hearing date at your earliest convenience to review this matter. We shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Bentubo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

James Bentubo
Chairman

JB/av

Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee

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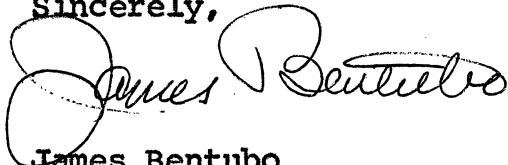
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James Bentubo
Chairman

JB/av

S-508

Comm. from James Bentubo, Chairman,
Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee,
requesting a hearing before the City Council
relative to the Market Street Playground.

In City Council,

November 10, 1980

Hanning 11/24/80

6 PM

*petitioner notified of
hearing 11/12/80 (cc)*