



City of Cambridge

34.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 23, 1990

Councillor Duehay
Vice Mayor Reeves

ORDERED: That the enclosed resolution directed to the Harvard Corporation prepared by the Committee for Housing Rights, a subcommittee of the Phillips Brooks House Association Homeless Committee is and hereby both appreciated and endorsed with the exception of item 4, about which there is still some ambiguity.

In City Council April 23, 1990.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

**PETITION TO PRESIDENT DEREK BOK
AND MEMBERS OF THE HARVARD CORPORATION**

We, the Harvard and Radcliffe community, are concerned about the Corporation's policies with respect to housing and development in Cambridge. As the second largest landholder in the city in a time of rising homelessness, we feel that the Harvard Corporation must be more responsive to the needs of the Cambridge community.

We therefore demand that:

- 1.) the Corporation make information on its holdings and development plans easily accessible to the Cambridge community through the regular publication of a newsletter;
- 2.) the Corporation donate a lot of 'developable residential land' to be used specifically for permanent housing for homeless families and individuals and to be developed at cost by the Boston chapter of Habitat for Humanity;
- 3.) the Corporation agree to abide by the linkage proposal introduced to the Cambridge City Council in 1984 which would have slotted 30% of all new housing for use by low-income families;
- 4.) that the Corporation submit all future development projects to a neighborhood referendum if 15% of the affected population sign a petition of objection to the project.

**The Committee for Housing Rights,
a Subcommittee of the PBHA Homeless Committee:**

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Harvard Corporation owns over 11,000,000 square feet in Cambridge- making it the city's second largest landholders. Harvard owns over 700 rent controlled units in the city. The Corporation thus bears a heavy responsibility to the city and its citizens.
- The Corporation, if it continues to develop at current rates, will own half of Harvard Square by the year 2000 and all of the Square by midcentury, according to the Harvard Square Defense Fund.
- A Corporation-owned 3-room rent controlled apartment can cost as much as \$618 per month- a figure prohibitive to virtually all low-income families.
- 7.4 million square feet of Harvard's property is tax exempt- every year, Cambridge citizens lose the community benefits these millions of dollars in taxes could provide.
- Harvard has used its status as large landowner to defeat community proposals limiting development in local neighborhoods and a linkage proposal which would have increased the low-income housing stock in the city.
- In 1982, the Corporation raised low rents in its affiliated housing for graduate students and others to market rates, claiming that such low rents constituted an unfair subsidy since not all graduate students lived in affiliated housing!
- Harvard owns at least 8 empty lots classified by the city as 'developable residential land'- lots for potential apartments, duplexes, and homes now sitting useless.
- Harvard claims to have no long term development plans, though in the last two years it has completed in rapid succession multimillion dollar purchases of properties on Everett St., the Gulf Station, the St. Paul Rectory and lot, and the Mass. Ave. Quality Inn.



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attachment

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Order # 34

S-372

Councillor Duehay and Vice Mayor Reeves
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In City Council,

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Order adopted