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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

99 Follen Road
Lexington, MA 02173

August 6, 1982

Chairman of the City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Vellucci:

Please read the enclosed letter to the Board at the next City Council meeting. Thank you for giving this your attention.

Very truly yours,

Mary Senter

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

To Members of the City Council:

As an owner of property in Cambridge I am strongly opposed to the 1% fee tenants must pay for Rent Control operating costs, and I question the legality of this regulation. The burden of supplementing the expenses of the Rent Control Board should not be placed upon tenants.

It would seem more logical for the City Manager and the City Councilors to see that the Rent Control Office is properly staffed and much more efficiently operated.

Landlords repeatedly are given only a few days notice to comply with a new rule. My notice of the 1% fee was postmarked July 28, delivered July 30, and tenants had to be informed no later than August 1. To date, my tenants have not been informed by the Board.

Any regulation (especially when it involves a month's notice to tenants,) should be in the mail at least two weeks in advance of the date it is to become effective, and all tenants should be notified at the same time - not three, four, or more weeks later.

I have been informed by the City Manager that in regard to this latest regulation the billing dates for landlords may have to be changed, due to insufficient notification. How much will it cost to send all those additional notices? Several hundred dollars could be saved in labor, paper, postage, etc. if the Rent Control Board made the effective date September 1 for tenants, and advanced the billing dates for landlords before anything was mailed. This is just one example of the appalling inefficiency that exists and the unnecessary expense it entails. Under such conditions it is not surprising that the Board requires additional funds.

Every city official who presents, approves, or has anything to do with the Rent Control budget has not only a responsibility, but an obligation to see that the funds are not wasted and that the office is well managed by a Board and staff of competent people. More money will not solve the problem - better supervision will.

Very truly yours,

Mary Dentler
Mary Dentler

August 6, 1982

Comm. from Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci, transmitting a comm. from Mary Dentler, in opposition to the 1% fee recently imposed on landlords by the Rent Control Board.

In City Council,

September 12, 1982

*Referred to the
City Manager*

*copy sent to the City Manager
9/14/82 mch*