

CENTRAL SQUARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Carl F. Barron, *President*
Putnam Furniture Leasing Co., Inc.
617-354-3358 Fax 617-547-6636

2001 FEB 22 A 11: 00

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
February 19, 2001
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Honorable Members of the
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: UNHYGIENIC PIGEON PRESENCE IN CENTRAL SQUARE

Dear Councillors:

After considerable thought, I am writing to amplify my letter to you of February 1 regarding the above.

The City of Cambridge has spent many millions of dollars during the past few years in improving Central Square. We are most appreciative of that fact and want to continue progress.

Over the past decade, I have sent various messages to the Cambridge City Council relating to steps taken by other communities throughout the world in trying to eliminate a heavy concentration of pigeons in urban centers because of the unsanitary and unsightly aspects of bird droppings. Pigeons still are fed by well-intentioned but harmful bird lovers in Central Square, unsightly facades, dangerous walking in wet weather, and the fear of disease spread when walking into food stores and restaurants notwithstanding.

I know it is difficult to accept the fact that the well-intentioned little old lady or man who sits and feeds the pigeons is a harmless person. Their intent is high, the results are not good for the general well-being for the people and the physical improvements.

There are city ordinances which are in place, and which could be enforced if the will was there. Perhaps more stringent ordinances would be in order.

The enclosed photostatic copy of an article in THE BOSTON GLOBE of February 8, 2001, indicates that the City of London now recognizes this problem and has taken steps to stop it, despite a long-term feeding of pigeons.

I know it is difficult to consider the harmless little old lady or man as being an evil person and subject to arrest. However, in their innocent activities, they are creating all kinds of troubles and the rest of us feel that this should stop.

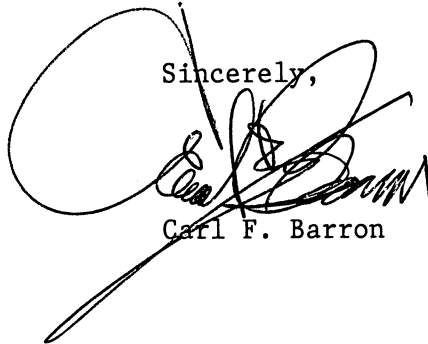
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Honorable Members of the
Cambridge City Council
February 19, 2001
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2001 FEB 22 A 11:00
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

We would greatly appreciate a favorable resolution on this to the
advantage of all.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Barron

CFB01/CityCouncil3

Enc.

cc: Commissioner Ronnie Watson
Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager
Hon. Martha Coakley, District Attorney
Hon. Roanne Sragow, Presiding Justice
Third District Court of Middlesex County
CSBA Board of Directors
Combined Cambridge Business Associations
Central Square Real Estate Group

2001 FEB 22 A 11: 00

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS THE BOSTON GLOBE

Pigeon-food seller to bow out in London

By Kevin Cullen

GLOBE STAFF

LONDON — Bernard Rayner took a buyout yesterday, and now the pigeons of Trafalgar Square, which have delighted tourists and defiled statues in London's most famous plaza for more than a century, will have to look elsewhere for sustenance.

In an out-of court settlement, Rayner threw in the towel in his battle against Mayor Ken Livingstone and accepted an out-of-court settlement to close the stall where his family had been selling pigeon food for a half-century.

Rayner, 44, declined to disclose how much he will receive, and Greater London Authority officials said that under the terms of the agreement, they could not disclose the amount unless Rayner agreed.

"It isn't much money," said Rayner in an interview, adding that under the agreement a portion of the money will go directly to an animal welfare organization.

Livingstone, who described the pigeons as "winged rats," crowed about the settlement, saying it would allow him to "continue with my plans to transform Trafalgar Square into a cultural space for Londoners and visitors to enjoy."

Livingstone wants to make the square home to musicians, street performers, and vendors who sell food for people. But to do so, he



AFP PHOTO

Pigeon feed vendor Bernard Rayner walking through Trafalgar Square in London yesterday.

said he had to get rid of most of the thousands of pigeons that flock to the square every day to eat the dried corn that four generations of Rayner's family sold.

The birds, believed to be the biggest flock of semi-domesticated pigeons anywhere, are a fixture in Trafalgar Square, where hordes of tourists go every day to be photographed in a sea of pigeons.

Last fall, the city refused to renew Rayner's permit to sell pigeon food, and last month, Rayner went to the High Court and got an in-

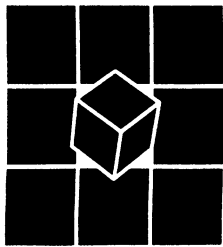
junction temporarily blocking the closure of his stall.

"The forces lined up against me were just too powerful," said Rayner following a court hearing yesterday. "I did the best I could for the birds, but in the end it was just pointless to keep fighting it in the courts."

Rayner's case wasn't helped when his older brother, David, recently surfaced to claim that their late father wanted him to have the business their great-uncle opened after World War II.

As part of the settlement, the city agreed to extend to three months a phased withdrawal of feed from the square. Animal rights activists have claimed that up to 10,000 pigeons that feed in the square could die, but the mayor said most of the 3,000 pigeons the city has counted will simply look for food in other parts of the city.

Rayner said he was proud to be part of one of the city's great traditions but, "The country's changing, innit?"



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2001 FEB 22 A 11:00

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

February 20, 2001

Miss D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

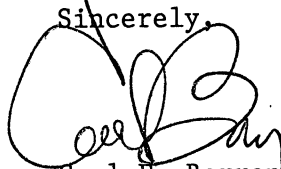
RE: PIGEON PRESENCE IN CENTRAL SQUARE

Dear Miss Drury:

Would you please forward a copy of the enclosed letter concerning
the above to each member of the Cambridge City Council.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Barron

CFB00/Drury3

Enc.

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Consent Communication #7

A communication was received from Carl F. Barron, Central Square Business Association, transmitting concern of unhygienic pigeon presence in Central Square.

In City Council February 26, 2001

Referred to
Neighborhood and
Long Term Planning
Committee and
Economic, Development,
Training, and
Employment
Committee

2-28-01
Copy
sent me