

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE 2000 CAMBRIDGE HOMES

Campana para Salvar 2000 Hogare

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Kanpay pou Sove 2000 Kay

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

January 27, 1999

To: Mayor Duehay and the Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk Margaret Drury
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Consent Communication: Regarding our alarm and great concern over the mass evictions that have just now begun against all four remaining tenants of the 6 Porter Road Tenants' Association, the continuing threat of eviction against the two remaining tenants at 8 Bigelow Street, the breakdown of negotiations and the court summonses received this week by members of the Clinton/Prospect Tenants' Association (260 Harvard Street), and the eviction of Leonne Papillon and her three children.

Dear Mayor Duehay,

The evictions have begun at 6 Porter Road. After much flipping and flopping, third new owner(s) of the building, developer Marc Resnick, Sherri Panzenbeck and Theo Realty Trust (with its unnamed beneficiaries), have now begun the eviction process against all four remaining tenants and their families, three of whom have lived in their homes at 6 Porter Road for three decades each. Thirty year tenant Cary Wasserman has received his court summons and all the others have received their notices of termination. The serious code violations that these very long term residents and their families have had to live with for decades in this neglected former rent control building, the intimidation and harassment and in-your-face angry threats of eviction that these tenants have had to endure from a series of five different individuals (or groups of investors) claiming ownership of the building during a five month period, the confusion as to who really owned the building, all of this, has not weakened the determination and the courage of the members of the 6 Porter Road Tenants' Association. They remain strong and united and we are proud to be able to help and support them in their rent strike and their year long struggle to remain in their homes.

When the tenants from 6 Porter Road come to City Hall to speak to you next Monday night they will be accompanied by the last two remaining tenants living at 8 Bigelow Street, Paul Shea and Francesco Caserta. Two months after becoming court-appointed Guardian of their 13-unit building, Reverend James F. Walsh, S.J., Esq., of Dorchester sent out eviction notices to all tenants. For several months he was having discussions with the city non-profit CASCAP (SHARE) for the sale of 8 Bigelow as permanent affordable housing. Now those negotiations have stalled and Reverend Walsh wants to clear the building of people and auction it off "to obtain the highest possible price." Paul and Francesco's new court date is February 11th.

Evictions have also just begun at 260 Harvard Street, as members of the Clinton/Prospect Tenants' Association this week received their court summonses. Negotiations by the tenants'

association with the owner, Mrs. Elaine Schuster, and with managing agent Wingate Management, have been on-going but difficult. Tenants from this building will be coming to speak to you as well. There are low income people living in this building, single working parents, and immigrant families.

We will continue to help and encourage all these at risk tenants, and the dozen other tenants who are also members of the Campaign to Save 2000 Cambridge Homes who are right now also living with the daily stress and pressure of the fear of losing their homes. We will continue to support them in their attempts to urge Cambridge landlords to show moderation and restraint, and to negotiate in good faith reasonable agreements and settlements. We believe that eviction for profit during a housing crisis is wrong and unjust.

Sincerely, *Bill Marcotte*

Bill Marcotte
Lead Housing Organizer
Eviction Free Zone

Consent Communication #69⁸⁻⁹⁰ ~~§~~

A communication was received from
Bill Marcotte, Lead Housing Organizer,
Eviction Free Zone, relative to the
evictions at 6 Porter Road.

In City Council February 1, 1999

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