

Dear Honored Councillors:

Please consider these points as a summary of my previous submission.

The proposals in my previous submission were not meant to be a final program, but rather a starting point to engage the creative energy of us all to think hard and bring ideas to the table to solve the terrible problem we face. The name of proposal and its exact form are inconsequential. The important thing is that we all work together to find innovative alternative ways to care for our needier citizens.

In the advent of the November 8 vote, Cambridge has been thrown into a housing crisis. Not only do we want to protect the needy, but also we want to protect the cultural and economic diversity that is one of the outstanding hallmarks of our city.

In order to achieve these goals, I propose that this council pursue a variety of methods to fund diversity and, indeed, I propose that a specific fund be established to achieve our housing goals now, and for the foreseeable future.

Further, I hope that in each instance where monies are collected, we put a prominent notice: for instance "10% of this parking permit fee will go to the Cultural Diversity fund in Cambridge". If we value cultural and economic diversity as a priority in this city and we are charging higher fees to support it, people should know it.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING PROPOSALS:

1) PIGGYBACK onto established fund collection methods.

The City government has the power to levy fees and taxes which could be incrementally increased.

It is easier to utilize existing mechanisms than to create new ones. Surely the council knows better than I which fees and taxes could be legally increased. My previous submission reflected both my naivete and my strong desire to find funding to help those of our citizens who are daily suffering fear, uncertainty and great personal pain because of our housing crisis. I urge each and every member of the Council to use all of their expertise and creativity in this area to find funds to help these citizens.

2) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT NEW fund collection methods.

Possibly we could think about those who may be using our city services without contributing directly, and then find ways to establish fees

for these services.

- 3) DONATIONS - Seek donations to help us through our current crisis and to endow a fund for diversity which could provide for our citizens in perpetuity

Many well-to-do persons and successful businesses reside in this city. In view of the current crisis, we should appeal to each and every one of them to give all or part of their tax-exempt donations (especially this year) to the fund for diversity.

- 4) "HABITAT FOR HUMANITY"-TYPE PROGRAM to help residents acquire home equity

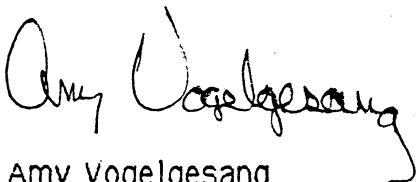
It was heart-rending to hear tenant after tenant cry out "I will never own my own home!" In Cambridge, perhaps we can do better.

- 5) CAMBRIDGE FELLOWS - establish a prestigious internship for those pursuing urban studies, public policy studies and the like

We all know that Cambridge is full of "think tanks". I propose that we establish one. under the auspices of the city government, to help do the work of the Council in administering this program, and to provide the Council with expert information to help monitor the effectiveness of the program, as well as to help develop new directions for it in the future.

Originality, imagination and inventiveness are free. We in Cambridge are experts at creating alternative solutions to tough problems. Let us do so now.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Vogelgesang
Irving Terrace
Cambridge, Mass.

Alternative Funding For Cultural Diversity

Set up a pool of money to provide housing subsidies for those in need

The Fund could be called Project ~~CREATE~~ **CREATE**
Cultural, Racial, Economic and Tenant Equity

Immediate goal: provide rental subsidies
long term goal: provide for needy persons
to purchase their homes and build
up home equity through the years

Sources of Funding For Project CREATE

~~For All sources of~~ For All sources of
Funding - notify that monies collected will
go to project CREATE - on meters, tickets etc.

Parking, Cars, etc.

Double meter charges

Increase parking tickets 20-25%

Increase local excise tax on vehicles

Require ~~colleges~~ colleges to collect a fee on each parking permit they issue to ^{students/faculty}

? Establish a class of moving violation for which
people can pay fine to CREATE without having
the violation appear on their insurance - These

could especially be around our schools, Then enforce like mad - will keep school zones safer & project funded

Fire Department

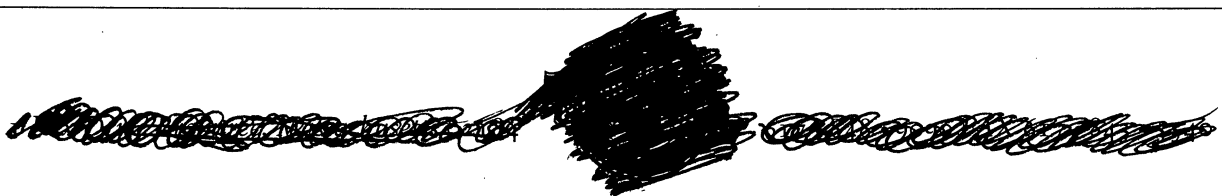
Change the structure of the Fire Department so that it is a membership society, and charge membership fees to those property owners in the community who do not currently pay taxes

- Persons who do pay taxes would see, on their tax bill, a portion of their taxes shown as membership fee - so this entails no increase in taxes

Property Taxes

Increase them for all

Reassess all newly decontrolled property, not at an excessive or punitive rate, but at the same rate as its neighbors, and dedicate that portion of those taxes to Project CREATE in perpetuity



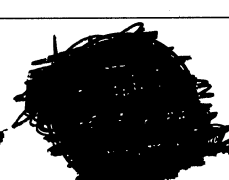
Use Monday's meeting videotape to create a donation solicitation ³
Tape

- Donations - Hire professional fundraisers on a commission basis.
- Appeal to each and every profitable Cambridge business to donate 100% of their contributions this year to Project Create ^{tax exempt}
 - Appeal to each and every well-to-do resident to donate 100% of their tax exempt contributions this year to Project CREATE (here we come, Governor Weld)
 - Ask major universities for money
 - long-term, set up an endowment fund so that well-to-do citizens from Cambridge and other locations can will monies to CREATE

Surely other fund-raising ideas will arise, 
e.g. Increase all city fees by 10-20%.

~~Long-term~~ Long-term

Establish a prestige internship -
"Cambridge Fellows" to attract fine
young minds from all over the nation
to help run this program - Fund by
Corporate Donations (P&G, Raytheon, etc.)
Get MIT or Harvard to supply a Director -
Perhaps MIT will supply a Director for 5 years,
Then Harvard



Long term - In Perpetuity

Establish a program - like President Carter's Habitat for Humanity - using commissioned fundraisers, get donations from all over New England, get This Old House to feature it

Each new home/unit owner would have to agree to sell their unit ~~only~~ only to another needy person in the program.

Using paid (commissioned) fundraisers, get seed money from banks, large real estate owners, etc.

~~~~~~~~~ The idea here is that, with help, perhaps needy people, and especially the working poor, CAN own their own homes.

→ Get Senator Kennedy to get Federal funding for some of these things if possible.

Respectfully Submitted, Amy Vogelgesang  
5 Irving Terrace

~~~~~~~~~

Comm. # 2

S-521

Comm. from Amy Vogelgesang, 5 Irving
Terrace, requesting the City Council to
set up a pool of money to provide housing
subsidies for those in need.

In City Council,

November 17, 1994

Placed on file