

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the proposed acquisition of 75 Sparks Street by the Cambridge Zen Buddhist Association. We understand that the property is to be used for a meditation center (involving morning services with chanting), as a library for graduate students, and for occasional weddings. We have also been informed that there are no present plans for communal living or to alter the structure of the building, and that the Directors of the Association are responsible older people in the Cambridge community.

While we can sympathize with your desire to find a permanent base for your group, we are very much opposed to the trend towards institutional ownership of homes in what have historically been residential areas. This trend poses a very real threat to the sense of neighborhood in the surrounding area, and almost inevitably is accompanied by increased traffic, parking and noise problems. We are also concerned about possible future uses of the building, particularly if there should be a change in the character of the Board of Directors.

All of us regard this part of Cambridge as a very special place, in part because it has largely succeeded in retaining its residential character, and, consequently, "its links with the past. We are sure you share this regard, and sincerely hope that you will reconsider your decision.

*Boris S. Zoffan (Mrs. Charles E.) 54 Highland Street.  
Resident of Cambridge since 1922, and at this address  
since 1932. This house was built in 1886 by my father  
in-law for the Zoffan family*

*Myra Gordon - 22 Highland St. 02138  
Roy Gordon*

*William S. Edgerly, 32 Highland Street  
Sois Stiles Edgerly, 32 Highland Street*

*Joseph R. Moore M, 33 Brewster Street  
Gweneth Knight, 149 Brattle St.  
Amy H. L. M.D. 147 Brattle St.*

*Bria Pfeiffer 147 Brattle St.*

*Elizabeth D. Quinn - 148 Brattle St.*

*Gardner Linton - " " "*

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Anna Sears Wilson	15 Kennedy Road
David Gordon Wilson	" " "
Sandra Shapiro	2 Channing Place
Irvald Grobman	2 CHANNING PLACE
Margaret Wittenberg	168 Brattle Street
Rh. Hahn	160 Brattle St.
Paula Cronin	3 Lincoln Lane
Raymond Vernon	ONE WINDSOR RD
Josephine Vernon	10 Quince Orchard
Joanna C. Antebi	5 Dunstable Rd
Clara Kay Freedlander	6 Dunstable Rd
Warrior B. Eisman	142 Brattle St.
Victoria Scott	11 Highland Street
Jul J. Hill	11 Highland Street

May 26, 1979

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*W. L. Manheim* 1 Highland St.  
 MANHEIM  
 Margaret d. Manheim 1 Highland St. " 661-0062  
 Peter J. Ellis 16 Highland St.  
 Cynthia H. Ellis  
 Joan H. von Mehren  
 Arthur T. von Mehren 68 Sparks St.  
 Ron  
 J. H. 70 Sparks St.  
 Gladys P. Gifford - 85 Sparks St  
 K. M. " " "  
 Francis B. Biddle 4 Wymour Rd Cambridge  
 Stephen M. Biddle M.D. " " "  
 Ruth J. Natchaw 6 Wymour Rd "

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Hilary Bracken  
Stephen Donnell  
Edis Hubbard 29 Highland St Cambridge  
Benjamin A Fairbank 13 Hig, W 1 St, Cambridge  
Nancy B Morse 17 Buckingham St, Cambridge  
David F. Solomon, 27 Craigie St, Cambridge

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Mr and Mrs Joseph Geller - 0294  
3 Highland St 492

*[Handwritten signature]*  
21 Craigie St

John Brode  
23 Berkeley St.

Ricardo & Mirella Gama  
26 Craigie St

Paul Celit-Kudhuzi  
21 Craigie Street

Olivia Constable

Gayle Williams

23 Craigie St  
Mrs William Elwell  
28 Buckingham St.

75 Buckingham  
Mrs A. Macomber

Sigrid + Paul Watson  
19 Buckingham St.

75 Buckingham St

Sonia + David Landes  
24 Highland St.

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Dan B. Held  
Richard Held  
Andrew L. Held

Thomas A. Mahoney

102 Appleton St. Camb. Ma.  
102 Appleton St. Camb.  
" "

86 Sparks St., Cambridge

May 26, 1979.

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Monica W. Stewart - 43 Appleton St - Camb.  
 Dorothea Reynolds - 89 Appleton St - Cambridge  
~~John~~ 43 APPLETON ST. CAMB.  
 Ann Conant Friedman 59 Fayweather St. Camb.  
 [Signature] " " " "  
 Richard A. Lockhart 58 Fayweather  
 Miriam L. Lockhart 58 Fayweather St. Camb.  
 Mary Ann Alous 66 Sparks St CAMB.  
 Wilma Alous 66 Sparks St Camb.  
 Elizabeth R. Luquer 10 Appleton St. Camb.



RICHARD B. GAMBLE  
72 SPARKS STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

May 29, 1979

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell,

As Sparks Street residents we have become involved in a series of discussions concerning the purchase of 75 Sparks Street for institutional use. We are concerned about the purchase and wanted to share our concern with you.

Cambridge is a city which experiences extraordinary pressures between institutional and residential demands. The neighborhoods are fragile because of that pressure and the willingness of families to purchase property in Cambridge is in constant jeopardy because of the delicate balance between institutional and residential use.

The Sparks Street area already is home for two large institutions and our street is a major traffic through street, especially during morning rush hour. We firmly believe that it is in the best interests of our neighborhood to have the homes owned by families who live in them and use them for non-institutional purposes. It is quite frankly partially a selfish interest, but it is also an interest we believe is grounded in the conviction that Cambridge residential neighborhoods should be protected in the best interests of the community.

We understand a reasonable offer from a family is available. We hope you will withdraw your offer to purchase for institutional use so that the residential character of the area will not be further affected.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard B. Gamble*  
Richard B. Gamble

May 26, 1979

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The Rev. James J. [Signature] 984 Memorial Drive



# City of Cambridge

28.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

June 4, 1979

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR FRISOLI

- WHEREAS: 75 Sparks Street in Cambridge is about to go off the tax rolls due to its purchase by a tax exempt institution; and
- WHEREAS: It is against the overall plan of the City of Cambridge for development and protection of our neighborhoods to allow tax producing property to be converted to tax exempt property; and
- WHEREAS: The proposed use of 75 Sparks Street is inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood and threatens to take another parcel of tax producing property off the tax rolls while violating existing zoning regulations; therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the City Solcitor not to approve this location for any real estate tax exempt status and to further instruct our City Building Inspectors not to issue any certificate of occupancy for this location until the city reassesses its land use policies and all building and zoning laws are complied with; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Dante Aleghri Society be exempt from the aforesaid moratorium; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Riverside, Cambridgeport and Mid-Cambridge areas all be included in the moratorium; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Harvard/Brattle Square area be included in the moratorium as outlined in this order.

In City Council June 4, 1979

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members.

Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

Councillor Crane has requested to be recorded in the negative.

6-28  
C. Duehay and C. Frisoli re: purchase of 75  
Sparks St. by a tax exempt institution..

In City Council,

June 4, 1979.

COUNCILLOR CRANE HAS REQUESTED TO BE RECORDED  
IN THE NEGATIVE.

*See Amendments  
By E. Velucci  
L. Frisoli  
L. Frisoli*