



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

June 9, 1978

The Honorable Thomas W. Danehy
Mayor
Cambridge, MA

Mr. Mayor:

The Committee of the naming of the Fire Station in East Cambridge, consisting of myself, Joseph Connarton and Bernard Flynn, herewith makes its report and recommendations to you and the members of the City Council.

Before doing so, I would like to make several points. The occasion of this controversy, namely the imminent completion of a new fire station in East Cambridge, is a long-awaited and happy event for the community. No amount of controversy or bickering should allow us to forget or diminish the significance of this occasion.

Beyond that, although the naming at times has appeared terribly complex, this issue is like most others in one respect; acting with an open mind and in good faith, a solution can be reached which is, if not satisfying to everyone's personal wishes, at least fair, considerate and honest.

Enclosed you will find our Report, our Recommendations, and a Council Order which incorporates each.

For the Committee

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Richard McKinnon", is written over the typed name.

Richard McKinnon
Administrative Assistant
to the Council

RM:mt

Enclosures

REPORT

The Committee has done research, conducted interviews and responded to a large number of telephone calls on the issue of naming the station.

Beyond that, on June 8, 1978, at 7 P.M. the Committee held a public hearing at the Kennedy School in East Cambridge. Prior notice of this hearing was given twice in the Chronicle and once in the Cambridge section of the Herald American.

Approximately one hundred people attended the hearing and everyone who wanted to speak was recognized and given an opportunity to address the committee and the public.

The Committee met the next morning at City Hall, discussed the various issues and agreed upon the following recommendations, which we now make for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The new Fire Station should be named:

THE EAST CAMBRIDGE FIRE STATION
ENGINE 3, LADDER 2

Reason: This is in keeping with practice city-wide. Beyond that, there is almost unanimous consent that no individual name ought to appear, or the name of any nationality, at the expense of possibly downgrading any other individual or nationality.

2. The Director of Veterans Services should proceed immediately to name the intersection of Tremont Street and Hampshire Street: Carvalho Square, in Honor of Benedict N. Carvalho and George A. Carvalho. A proper Memorial and Dedication Ceremony should be planned as well.

Reason: By adopting Council Order #16 of May 16, 1977, the City Council in effect made a promise, a commitment to the Carvalho family. In particular, a commitment was made to Mrs. Carvalho, who is 83 years old and who has lost two sons to duty. Yet upon reflection, particularly after listening to the remarks of Anthony Carvalho, it appears that what Mrs. Carvalho would like is a memorial and a spot to place a wreath for her sons. By this recommendation, the Council can keep the heart of its promise to the Carvalho family and do so in a way that is convenient to Mrs. Carvalho who can walk daily to the Memorial once it is erected and dedicated.

3. The City Council should take whatever steps are necessary to insure that the Fire Department's Memorial Committee has the necessary resources to dedicate and construct a permanent Memorial to all Cambridge Firefighters who are deceased, or, who have died in the line of duty, or, who have died from injuries sustained in the line of duty. The Memorial Committee should properly decide which group, what central location is most suitable, and what form the Memorial should take. If the Council adopts this recommendation and makes a commitment of resources and technical assistance, then it ought to request a final decision from the Memorial Committee by October 1, 1978, in that they have been meeting for some time already.

Reason: Clearly, the City ought to have a proper Memorial for our firefighters.

4. The dedication Ceremony of the East Cambridge Fire Station ought to focus on the central concern; the people of East Cambridge, after years of waiting and years of pushing, finally will have a new, modern fire station for the protection of their community.

Reason: The happiness of this occasion has been submerged for too long in debate. There is no time more fitting than the Dedication to reflect on the importance of this facility for the people of the community, who deserve the station and should be allowed to celebrate its completion together.



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL
June 12, 1978

MAYOR DANEHY

ORDERED:

That the Report and Recommendations of the Committee for the Naming of the East Cambridge Fire Station, dated June 9, 1978, be and hereby is formally adopted.

S-262 A

Comm. from Richard McKinnon, Administrative
Asst. to the City Council Re: enclosed
report & recommendations of the Committee
for the naming of the Fire Station in East
Cambridge; said Committee consisting of
himself, Joseph Connarton & Bernard Flynn.

In City Council,

June 9, 1978