



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • TEL. 876-0125

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT
Chief of Department

March 13, 1989

Mr. Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Cambridge City Hall

Dear Mr. Healy:

REGARDING COUNCIL ORDER #18, February 27, 1989

The following information is forwarded in regards to Council Order #18, February 27, 1989.

On February 17, 1989, at 0246 hours, the department responded to a serious fire at 30-32 Fairmont Street. Engine #6 located on River Street just three blocks away was on scene within two minutes of receipt of the alarm and found the building heavily involved in fire.

After questioning of the occupants by our Fire Investigation Unit, it was determined that the system hardwire detectors did not operate. The only battery smoke detector in the apartments that operated was located on the third floor's left hand unit.

Upon further investigation by our unit we feel that the fire started in the area of the electrical panel in the cellar then ran through a bay about 16 inches wide and about 4 inches long before it went up through the open bays into the walls and ceilings of the various rooms.

The Fire Prevention Bureau did have to place some pressure on the owner to bring about the installation of the smoke detector system in mid 1983. They sent a letter to Mr. Larry Manley, the owner of said premises on June 1, 1983 requiring him to install a smoke detector system. A plan of approval was submitted to our department on June 9, 1983, but no further action was taken by the owner at this time. On September 7, 1983, a letter was sent to the Law Department to set up a probable cause hearing date which was selected as October 19, 1983. On October 5, 1983, a Mr. Angelo Amico called the Fire Prevention Bureau and stated that we would be

REGARDING COUNCIL ORDER #18, February 27, 1989

installing the system within two weeks. On October 15, 1983, an inspection was made by our department. We found the system to be installed and it was approved by us.

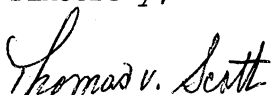
During early April 1985 the Fire Prevention Bureau was having the companies conduct inspections of various streets to make sure that all units were equipped with properly installed and operating smoke detectors. On April 9, 1985, the building at 30-32 Fairmont Street was again checked and found to be in compliance with the law. This was the last date of any inspection made at this premises.

According to our records we have not received any call to respond to any type of incident at this building dating back to July 1, 1987.

In the past few years the department has moved away from the inspection of dwellings and have concentrated their effort mainly to the inspection of target hazards throughout the city.

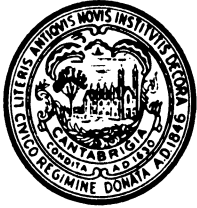
Let me know if any further information is required.

Sincerely,



Thomas V. Scott, Chief
Fire Headquarters

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

March 20, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In reference to tonight's hearing regarding the threat of fire in the City of Cambridge, I submit the attached report from the Fire Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 6

S-176

Re: enclosed Fire Dept. report on the threat
of Fire in the City.

In City Council,

March 20, 1989

3-20-89

Referred to the hearing
at 6:00 P.M. on 3-20-89