



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
City Hall Annex Inman & Broadway EXTENSION 344

To The Honorable, The City Council

From Richard A. Easler *RAE*

Date March 28, 1979

Subject Council Order No. 7 - 3/19/79: Carla Johnston's Discharge

The action of the MAPC Executive Committee in terminating Carla Johnston as Executive Director was not, as erroneously reported in the press, a move to gain "state control" of MAPC.

On the contrary, it was a move by those including myself elected to the Executive Committee by and from the cities and towns to remove the effects of state control and place the agency back in the hands of the local governments who constitute and pay for the MAPC.

Of the 24 present members of the Executive Committee, only three represent the new state administration, while six are appointees of the former administration. The remaining 15 members are all city and town representatives.

The vote for termination was 11 to 7. If none of the state-appointed representatives' votes are counted (three in favor, two opposed), the vote of the city and town representatives was 8 to 5 to terminate.

Thus, far from the biased characterization given in the press, this was an action determined - as it should have been - by the community representatives, not by the state.

Contrast this with what happened two years ago. On the vote to appoint a new Executive Director, the vote was 14 to 9 in favor of Carla Johnston.

However, nine of these fourteen votes were from state-appointed members of the Executive Committee, and eight of the nine opposed were city and town representatives.

Thus, if again the state votes were not counted, the city and town votes were 8 to 5 against her appointment.

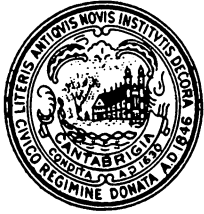
This heavy-handed interference by the former state administration in the operation and control of a city and town supported agency was strongly resented and fought against for the past two years.

This, plus the actions and conduct of the Executive Director over the past several months, culminated in the vote to terminate on March 15.

These latter actions and conduct included:

- Attempts by the Executive Director to make "deals" with other agencies on appointments to a major regional transportation policy board without any prior knowledge, much less approval, of the Executive Committee.
- Continued failure to give Executive Committee data and information needed to fulfill its responsibilities.
- Abusive and insulting language to the Council officers who refused to go along with the Executive Director's attempt to appoint a \$29,000 legal counsel without prior notice to the officers or Executive Committee.
- The Executive Director's deliberate failure to attend an Executive Committee meeting at which the annual Work Program and budget was to be acted on. As a result, the Executive Committee was forced to call a special meeting for this purpose.
- The Executive Committee has been forced to publicly apologize for statements and actions of the Executive Director in a newspaper article attacking and insulting officials of the state administration.
- The Executive Director submitted legislation in the name of the MAPC without ever securing authorization or approval to do so. The Council was forced to formally withdraw the bills.
- Though directed by the Council officers not to do so, the Executive Director continued to make inflammatory and unprofessional public comments in the press, rather than attempting to resolve problems and differences within the agency.

It was, therefore, the judgment of the majority of the Executive Committee, with the city and town votes being decisive, that the only resolution to this turmoil was to take the action it did, so that new elected and staff leadership could start fresh, remove the state influence and control of the past few years, and restore the Council to what it was created to be - the effective voice of the cities and towns of the Metropolitan Area.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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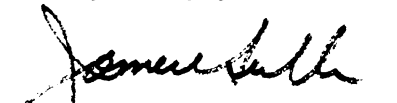
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

April 2, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to City Council Order No. 7 of March 19, 1979 relative to the discharge of Carla Johnston, enclosed please find copy of a report from Richard A. Easler of the Community Development Department.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #5

S-179

Response to City Council order no. 7 of 3/19/79
re: discharge of Carla Johnston.

In City Council,
April 2, 1979

- Placed on File -