

Cambridge Police Association

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

POST OFFICE BOX 730
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02139

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

J. Bellissimo
President

E. L. Lyons
Vice President

D. Betz
Treasurer

J. Pepin
Secretary

June 4, 1980

Mr. Paul Healy
Clerk City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

The Cambridge Police Association is requesting that you read this letter at the City Council Meeting being held on Monday, the 9th of June, 1980.

The Executive Board of the Cambridge Police Association wishes to express its extreme displeasure with the city's policy of paying legal fees to defense attorneys. Within the past year the City Solicitor, apparently acting on orders from the City Manager, agreed to pay legal fees amounting to thousands of dollars to lawyers representing clients who have been arrested by Cambridge Policemen. In these instances, the cases were settled to the satisfaction of the defendants, their attorneys, and the City Solicitor. The officers who were involved in the cases were anything but satisfied. Effective law enforcement is virtually impossible when the legitimate efforts of police officers are undermined in this manner.

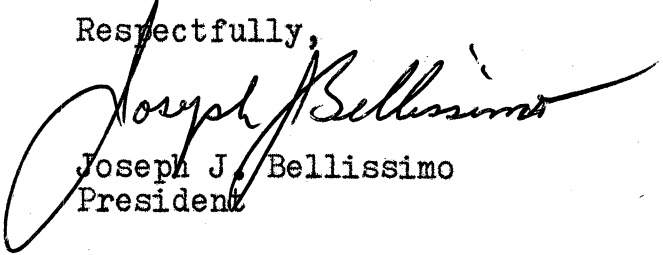
The City Manager has recently stated that he will no longer represent Cambridge policemen in cases involving cross-complaints against them. The City of Cambridge apparently won't support its own police. This is bad enough. But in one of the aforementioned cases, the City Solicitor insinuated that cases of this nature might affect possible promotional opportunities in the future. That message was loud and clear.

Our message shall be as loud and clear. We shall expose the antics of an anti-police and anti-labor, highly-paid political appointee. The current, abysmally low morale in the Police Department is directly related to his obvious dislike for working police officers.

(2)

Despite this attitude, we will continue to serve all the citizens of Cambridge to the best of our abilities. We shall also keep them informed of whatever obstacles to effective police services are placed before us by the City Manager and his followers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Bellissimo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Joseph J. Bellissimo
President

JJB:jap

5-278

Comm. from Joseph Bellissimo, Pres.,
Cambridge Police Assn., re: city's policy
of paying legal fees to defense attorneys.

In City Council,

June 9, 1980

6/9/1980

Referred to the
City Manager for
Report -

Copy sent to City Mgr
6/11/80 (all)