

79 Martin Street, Unit 42
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
23 December 1990

The City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

To Whom, If Anyone, It May Concern:

The maternal grandson of a Free Baptist minister, I am of a "relapsed" category, but my belief in God and the Hereafter remain undiminished.

To me, Freedom of Religion is a touchy subject, as is the adherence, or lack of it, to the First Amendment.

My opinion is of course biased concerning discussions (sic) regarding a tree vs. other symbols, but for many years I have felt that people have become more and more sensitive, or thin-skinned, when voicing concerns of being slighted or categorized, of being subjected to ethnic or religious slurs.

There have been years since my high school (Rindge) days, but I can recall there having been voiced, vociferously, descriptions of not only religious persuasions ("Dirty Black Protestant," but one), but insulting references to one's heritage, as well. Of course, I may have been guilty, as well.

Due to my surname, I have on two occasions ~~have~~ been blessed by a Catholic priest when I had been hospitalized. I do hope that their actions had not been wasted!

My mother having been Minnie, my sister Reba, and my wife Esther - do you suppose ...?

Speaking for myself, I would like to know that a tree might be safely placed when and where desired, and that symbols of other religions might be placed in the same area, if that may be the wish of others. The possible vandalism of an unguarded creche, in a public place, is to me very sad, as are the instances of graffiti insulting to the beliefs of others. My suggestion, no doubt, will be anathema to some - a fact deplored by me.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Harrington

Earl L. Harrington
Cambridge resident since birth,
1913, 120 Henry Street.
Independent.
Conservative

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Comm. from Earl L. Harrington, 79 Martin St.,
regarding the freedom of religion.

In City Council,
January 7, 1991

Placed on file

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