

WELLINGTON-HARRINGTON CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
920 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

October 14, 1970

Honorable Alfred Vellucci  
Mayor, City of Cambridge  
City Hall  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

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Dear Mayor Vellucci:

The Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee has been made aware of a serious heating problem in a residential structure at 19 to 25 Market Street in the Wellington-Harrington Neighborhood Improvement Area. Representatives of the tenants of this building, one of whom is a member of this Committee, have informed us that they, along with tenants in an adjacent building owned by the same Realty Company, have taken every legal measure possible to force their landlord to correct the many code violations existing on the two properties. In spite of their efforts, they are still living in substandard conditions and are still without heat.

We have been informed by staff of the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority that full cooperation has been extended to the owner of the properties, Mr. Joseph Zemotel, in an attempt to provide him with a property rehabilitation loan to correct the code violations. Up to the present time, however, Mr. Zemotel has not taken advantage of the services available to him.

Because of the inability or unwillingness of this property owner to voluntarily rehabilitate his buildings, the Citizens Committee has directed the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority to take the necessary steps to acquire Mr. Zemotel's property for the purpose of rehabilitating it. While this action will result in improved housing conditions for the residents of these buildings, we emphasize that this is not a solution to the immediate heating problem. The legal steps involved in the acquisition of any property by the Authority require a minimum of several months time. The tenants must have heat immediately.

Because of the critical nature of this problem and because of the seeming inability of any agency or individual to solve it, we strongly urge that the City of Cambridge use all municipal powers and resources at its disposal to end the desperate situation of these citizens.

Sincerely,  
*Robert W. Bright*  
Robert W. Bright, Chairman

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