



The Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, Inc.

68 Albany Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

27 April 1976

Chief William J. Cremins
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

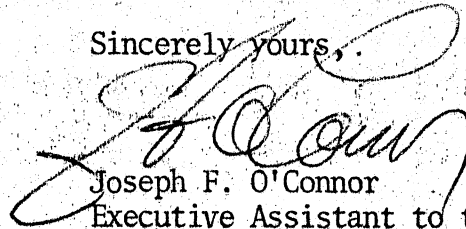
Dear Chief Cremins:

I wish to express on behalf of the Laboratory and our President, Bob Duffy, our deep appreciation for the way you and your men responded to the fire emergency which occurred in the building we occupy at 68 Albany Street on the morning of April 27, 76.

I personally witnessed the thoroughly professional way the fire was extinguished. Your cooperation with our maintenance and security personnel was exemplary and the concern you showed for our premises and facilities permitted us to resume normal operations by midday.

Seeing firsthand the high standards adhered to by the Cambridge fire-fighters in carrying out their difficult and hazardous mission reinforces our belief that the decision to relocate our operations in Cambridge was a correct one.

Sincerely yours, ..



Joseph F. O'Connor
Executive Assistant to the President

/f

xc: Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci
Mr. Robert Jones, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

William J. Cremins
Chief

April 30, 1976

Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci:

Appropriately enough I received the enclosed letter today which was written the day before the fire department budget hearing on April 27th.

It sums up what I had been trying to put across to the City Council, the professionalism of our fire department not only at this fire, which was under scrutiny of highly professional people, but at all fires to which we respond.

I think it underscores that our table of organization and method of operation reflects itself at the fire scene, and the recent attempts to change that structure will in my mind reflect itself by ~~poorer~~ performance on the fire ground.

Another point came up at the budget hearing when it was suggested that perhaps there should not be two fire fighting deputy chiefs on duty on the same shift (a condition that has existed for most of the time for about 50 years). It is interesting to note that at about the same time as the Draper Lab fire on Albany Street (April 26), another alarm came in for a fire at 377 Putnam Avenue. This response had 5 fire fighting companies plus the Rescue Company under a Deputy Chief. The Draper Lab fire had 5 fire fighting companies under the second Deputy Chief to which the Rescue Company also responded when it was able to be released from the Putnam Avenue fire.

Here were two serious fires at the same time requiring the two deputies and utilizing 11 of our 14 fire companies. These fires had no publicity and this situation of fires occurring at the same time is not infrequent in Cambridge.

I receive many similar letters during the course of the year and I have heard from several firms who had moved out of Cambridge and suffered fires and expressed dismay to me at the differences in the fire services.

To sum it up, it is evident that prominent firms do consider the fire department operations in Cambridge important enough to stay in Cambridge or come back to Cambridge, and I urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to see that the organizational structure of the Cambridge Fire Department is not tampered with, and that the necessary fire apparatus appropriations are not deleted.

Very truly yours,

Chief, Cambridge Fire Department



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Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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