

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
617-495-4955

August 15, 1991

RECEIVED
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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Bob,

At the City Council meeting last Wednesday, August 7th, Councillor Walter Sullivan proposed an order asking that Harvard University confirm in writing his understanding that Harvard is committed to maintaining residential housing for the elderly and disabled at Putnam Square Apartments at 2 Mt. Auburn Street.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that Kristin Demong, President of Harvard Real Estate, wrote to the editor of the Cambridge Chronicle which was published on Thursday, August 8th, the day following the Council meeting. (This was in response to a letter from Robert LaTremouille in the Chronicle's July 18th edition.)

I believe Kristin's letter should be brought to the City Council's and your attention, especially the final sentence, "It is clearly Harvard's intention to honor the terms of our forty year lease with the CHA, which includes a commitment through the year 2010."

Sincerely,

Rita Corkery
Associate Director
Community Relations

Enclosure

c.c. Councillor Walter J. Sullivan
Daniel Wuenschel, Executive Director, C.H.A.
John Shattuck
Kristin Demong



Harvard Real Estate, Inc.

1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Telephone 617-495-2745
Fax 617-495-0463

Kristin S. Demong
President

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONTACT: Dianne Dyslin
496-1886
495-8977

Dear Editor:

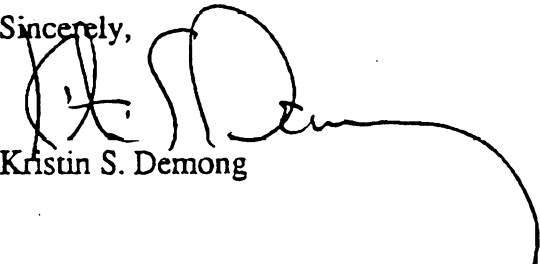
In your July 18th issue, you published a letter from Robert Tremouille that accused Harvard of planning to use the elderly housing at 2 Mt. Auburn St. for "expansion schemes, with temporary lodging for the needy." He also claimed that "Harvard . . . has already started replacing elderly at 2 Mt. Auburn St. with less politically powerful tenants," and that the structure, "now only part elderly, comes closer to becoming part of the Harvard campus in the next few years." All of this is blatantly untrue.

Two Mt. Auburn St., also known as Putnam Square, consists of 94 units of elderly housing built on land leased from Harvard in 1970 with mortgage funds provided by the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). All of these units were consequently leased to the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), a public housing agency, for a term of 40 years. It is the CHA which determines who lives at 2 Mt. Auburn St., not Harvard.

Even though this housing has been used primarily for the elderly, CHA is also allowed to place Cambridge citizens with physical and mental disabilities in these units. Currently, of the 94 leasable units, 87 are occupied by elderly tenants, and seven are occupied by younger, disabled tenants. The average age of the elderly tenants is 81, and six of the original elderly tenants still live in the building.

The University is enthusiastically committed to maintaining 2 Mt. Auburn St. as residential housing for the elderly and disabled. As a matter of fact, since 1985, Harvard has initiated property improvements at this site estimated to cost more than \$1.1 million on completion. Among these improvements have been the installation of a new sprinkler system and central hot water system, the placement of handrails in all common hallways of the building's 11 floors, and complete renovations of all building lounges, including new furniture especially designed for the elderly. We are proud of our association with this property and its tenants. It is clearly Harvard's intention to honor the terms of our forty year lease with the CHA, which includes a commitment through the year 2010.

Sincerely,


Kristin S. Demong



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

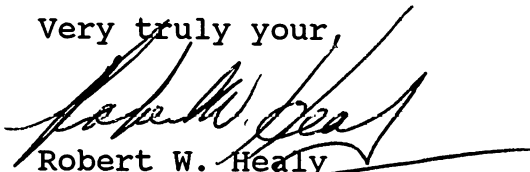
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

November 18, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 28, regarding the status and future use of the property located at 2 Mt. Auburn Street, please find a response from Harvard University concerning its plans for 2 Mt. Auburn Street.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Consent Agenda# 11 S-1212

Awaitin report Item Number 28, regarding
the status and future use of the property
located at 2 Mt. Auburn Street.

In City Council,

November 18, 1991

11/18/91 Placed on file