



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

September 8, 1999

Dear River Festival Patrons:

The City of Cambridge would like to take this opportunity to offer its sincerest apologies to the Jewish community for inadvertently scheduling its annual River Festival on a date that conflicts with the observance of Rosh Hashanah.

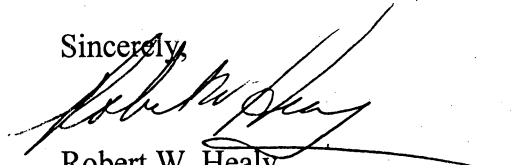
We acknowledge that the River Festival is intended to be an inclusive event, for all members of the community to enjoy. There was no intention to exclude any members of the Cambridge community.

The Cambridge Arts Council coordinates with the Metropolitan District Commission's calendar, which has limited availability on weekends. By the time the Arts Council realized that there was a conflict, it was too late to reschedule the date.

For the past few years, the River Festival has been scheduled on the Saturday following Labor Day in an effort to establish a major community event that people look forward to during the same time every year. Over 110,000 people attend annually. Until this year, the event had not conflicted with a major religious observance.

We are taking steps, including providing all City Departments with a calendar that will outline important dates, in order to ensure that this kind of conflict does not occur in the future and again regret this unfortunate error.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager



City of Cambridge

O-23.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 1999

- COUNCILLOR DAVIS
- COUNCILLOR BORN
- MAYOR DUEHAY
- VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
- COUNCILLOR REEVES
- COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
- COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
- COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
- COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: The River Festival is intended to be an inclusive community event; and

WHEREAS: This year the River Festival has been scheduled to take place on one of the Jewish High Holidays; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to transmit a formal apology to the Jewish community for this hurtful and insensitive scheduling error; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager, with appropriate community consultation, prepare and disseminate a five year calendar of holidays such as that maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Education, with the intention of avoiding any further inappropriate and offensive scheduling such as that of the 1999 River Festival.

In City Council September 13, 1999.
 Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
 Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk

HD

23



9/17

4:30

W/A The River Festival is intended to be an inclusive community event; and

W/A This year the River Festival ^{has been} ~~was~~ scheduled to take place on one of the Jewish High Holidays; now therefore be it

Ordered: That the CM be + hb is requested to transmit a formal apology to the Jewish Community for this ~~is~~ heartful and insensitive scheduling error; and be it further

Ordered: That the CM, with ~~and~~ appropriate community consultation, ~~and request~~ to prepare and disseminate a five year calendar of holidays such as that maintained by the Massachusetts Department of Education, with the intention of avoiding any further inappropriate and offensive scheduling, such as that of the 1999 River Festival

9/7 4:30

HD

That the City Mgo transmit a formal apology to the Jewish Community for ^{canceling} ~~canceling~~

Further That the CM publish and disseminate a five year ~~two~~ calendar of holidays w/ the ~~ethnic~~ ^{that} community wide events will not be scheduled on such holidays

WA

The River Fest is intended to be an inclusive community event +

WA

The River Fest

State Dept of Educ has
over a calendar



City of Cambridge

O-23.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 13, 1999

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

WHEREAS: The River Festival is intended to be an inclusive community event; and

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ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to transmit a formal apology to the Jewish community for this hurtful and insensitive scheduling error; and be it further

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Order #23

CM 342

Councillor Davis re: transmit an apology to the Jewish community for scheduling the River Festival on the Jewish High Holiday and prepare a five-year calendar of holidays to avoid further inappropriate scheduling for special events.

In City Council September 13, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED