

Robert J. La Tremouille

348 Franklin Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Voice/FAX/Modem: 617-491-7181

June 06, 1996

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
96 JUN -6 AM 8:32
CAMBRIDGE MA.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

RE: "Error" in Institutional District Zoning Map as part of a long pattern of City Misbehavior in the Harvard Square - Central Square Area

Enclosed for your information are copies of portions of two supposedly identical Institutional Overlay District maps. The earlier, the accurate publication, is dated 1988. The second, apparently falsified by city employees, is dated 1992.

The institutional districts have been in existence since the early eighties. During most of their existence, the official maps published by city employees have been erroneous in the same key area. This latest change leads to the rather clear conclusion that the errors are deliberate. This is, of course, part of a pattern of lawlessness and lack of ethics on development issues, especially in the Harvard Square - Central Square corridor. This lack of ethics was formally stood up to by the City Council. In its most recent actions the City Council has become a part of the pattern.

The key area on these maps is the area bounded by Mount Auburn Street, Banks Street, Grant Street and DeWolfe Street. This area is not within the Harvard Institutional District. The 1988 map is correct. The 1992 map which calls these two blocks within the Harvard Institutional District is clearly incorrect.

The original Institutional District map published by our Development Department showed the area bounded by Mt. Auburn Street, Athens Street, Grant Street and DeWolfe Street within the Harvard Institutional District. I objected to the City Council. The map was then corrected to the accurate 1988 edition.

Since the map was published in 1988, the City Council has taken an extremely bad turn as far as supporting or encouraging irresponsible behavior goes. It is not at all surprising to see another attempt made in 1992 to falsify the zoning.

City Council actions in 1985 and 1989 showed Council willingness to require responsible behavior from its employees.

During the period 1980 to 1985, the Development Department repeatedly, with no success, tried to sneak upzonings past the City Council for the area on Mass. Ave. between Harvard and Central Squares. In 1985, the staff paid a developer, using Commercial Area Redevelopment District money, to seek illegal variances for a project on Mass. Ave. in that area. Those variances exactly fit the upzonings the City Council had repeatedly rejected. The City Council removed the CARD district from Mass. Ave. between Harvard and Central Squares and voted to sue. A neighbor did sue and forced less irresponsible development.

The horribly irresponsible Harvard Square Overlay District upzoning of 1986 allowed Harvard to convert the first floors of its East Harvard Square dorms to Retail Malls and allowed lot line to lot line development. It specifically allowed the 10 Mount Auburn Harvard project, a project which had been defeated by action of the Rent Control Board.

In 1989, the City Council, under the leadership of Councillors Walsh and Russell, voted to undo a lot of the harm of the 1986 upzoning, including specifically establishing residential zoning in the Bow / Arrow / Remington Streets area. Lies by city employees and flunkies scared the neighborhood out of a commitment to undo more of the 1986 upzoning.

Two weeks after the passage of this downzoning, the City Manager lawlessly destroyed the park at Arrow and Mass. for the expansion of a restaurant which could not legally expand under the downzoning. The city council strongly slapped down this lawlessness and Guffey Park was eventually put in place.

In 1991 a number of fake progressives made serious overtures to giving half of Corporal Burns Playground, located between Banks Street and Memorial Drive, to Harvard for expansion of Peabody Terrace (after 10 to 20 years of temporary "affordable" housing funded by the Feds).

In 1992, this false map was put out falsifying, once again, the boundaries of the Harvard Institutional District.

In 1995, using one flunkey who led the 1986 upzoning and another flunkey who assisted in the behind the scenes maneuvers which partially undid the 1989 downzoning, the development department, with extremely unethical assistance from the city council, sneaked through a nearly secret vote to create a new tourist entertainment area next to the Inn at Harvard.

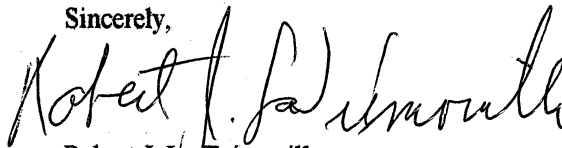
The City Council is now conducting nearly secret daytime meetings preparatory to encouraging Harvard to wipe out all Harvard owned residential or dormitory uses between Mount Auburn and Mass. Ave. for conversion to offices and retail malls, apparently during the period 2005 to 2010.

Needless to say, the apparent falsification of the institutional district map fits the pattern.

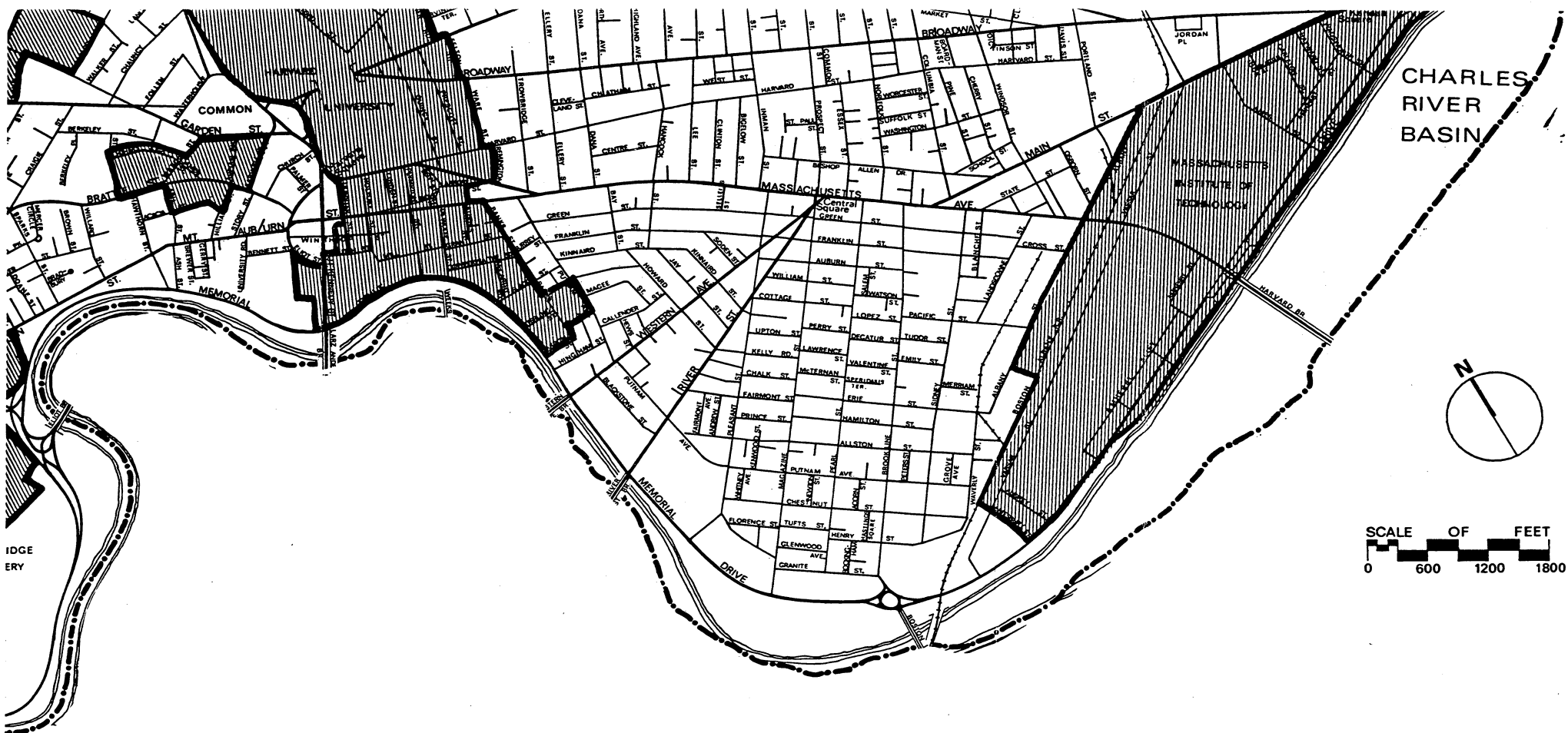
The original, pre-1988 "error" would appear to have been intended to make it more difficult to change zoning to prevent Harvard's DeWolfe Street buildings. This latest, 1992, "error" is rather clearly aimed at making it more difficult to stand up to Harvard's construction at Banks and Grant Streets, probably during the period 2005 to 2010.

I would strongly suggest that the map be, once again, corrected to reflect the zoning passed by the city council.

Sincerely,



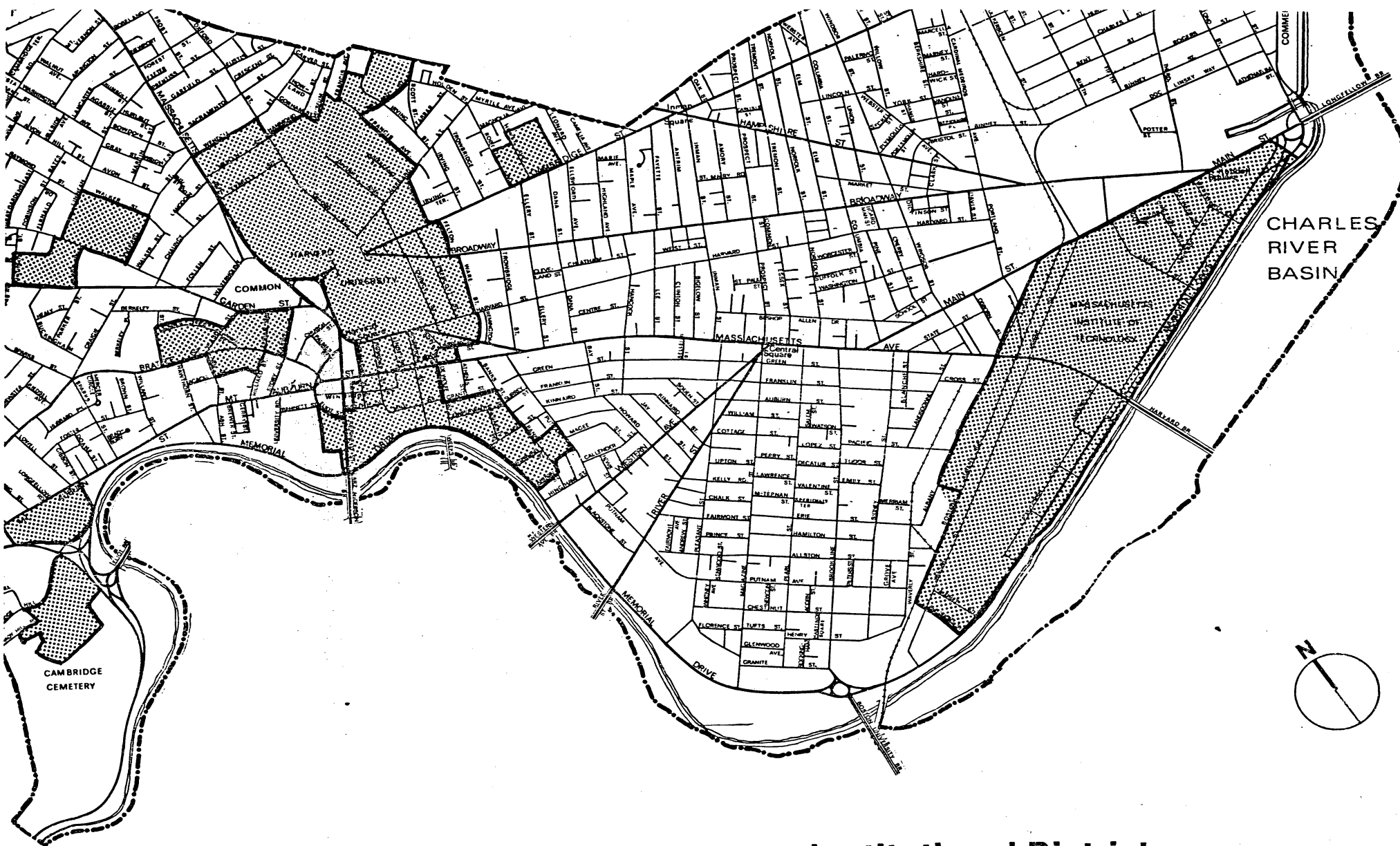
Robert J. LaTrémouille



INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICTS

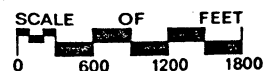
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Community Development Department 1992



Institutional Districts

CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge Community Development Department 1988

Consent Communication #7

S-327

Communication was received from Robert J. LaTremouille, transmitting memo regarding an "error" in the institutional district zoning map as part of a long pattern of City misbehavior in the Harvard - Central Square area.

In City Council June 10, 1996

Referred to City Manager, Law
Department and Community Development
with report.

07:1 PM 9-JUN 96

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

6/12 sent to law dept. + Comm. Dev.