



City of Cambridge

9.

IN CITY COUNCIL
April 2, 1979

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

WHEREAS: The Observatory Hill Branch Library is an intensely used utility and indispensable to the neighborhood it serves;

WHEREAS: The building has been declared unfit for continued use;

WHEREAS: A replacement building was scheduled 10 years ago, in the 1969 Capital Budget, and budgeted for Four Hundred Thousand Dollars, based upon a justification which stated:

"The Observatory Hill area, which is potentially one of the high use areas in the City, is now served by a completely inadequate branch library. A modern building with a larger collection is needed to provide the same freedom of choice now experienced by other areas of the City."

WHEREAS: The 1972 Capital Budget increased the cost estimate and broadened the justification to state:

"Not only is the structure inadequate in size, but it is so seriously deteriorated that the Building Department considers it unsafe in several respects."

WHEREAS: By 1974 the cost estimate reached Eight Hundred Twenty-four Thousand Dollars and is still climbing;

WHEREAS: Neighborhood support and enthusiasm for the Observatory Hill Branch is unprecedented;

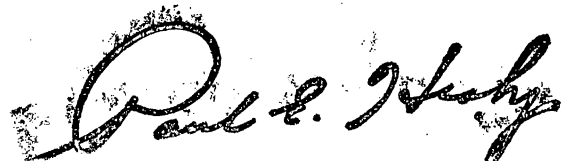
WHEREAS: The owner of the land on which the present branch stands reportedly wishes to sell it;

- WHEREAS: Further delay will further increase the cost, which has already doubled or tripled;
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has spent very little on libraries, the Pearl Street Branch having been heavily subsidized by outside funding;
- WHEREAS: The excellence and devotion of the Cambridge Public Library staff justifies brick and mortar back up; and
- WHEREAS: This area of the city has received little or no public expenditures since the Peabody School was built a quarter century ago; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager is requested to appoint an architect forthwith, appoint a land appraiser forthwith, commence negotiated or eminent domain proceedings to acquire the land, appoint a citizen advisory group and take all other steps requisite for creating a "little gem" of a library, a fit companion to our newer schools, fire station, Common, elderly housing towers, and other recent public works, and to accomplish any immediate repairs needed to continue services in the old building until groundbreaking day for the new building.

In City Council April 2, 1979
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

A true copy,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the "ATTEST:" label.

F-167

C. Wylie re: Observatory Hill Branch Library.

April 2, 1979

Lochner Wylie moved
Adoption.

In City Council,

April 2, 1979

P.W.
A Order Adopted
Properly

L.W.S.R.
R.F.
A