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ENOUGH ROOM
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2001 MAY 14 P 4: 54

Honorable Members of the
Cambridge City Council
795 Mass Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Hearing on property tax bill

Please take notice that The Committee on Taxation of the Massachusetts General Court will give a hearing on H.3636 (copy attached), petition of Roy Bercaw relative to the payment of property taxes by charitable institutions.

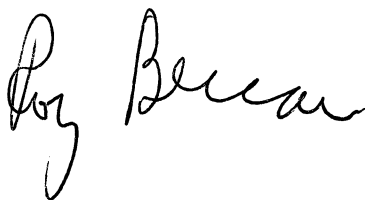
The hearing will be held on Wednesday May 23, 2001 at 10:00 AM in Room B-1 at the State House on Beacon Hill in Boston.

This bill amends Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 § 5; and makes not for profit institutions with more than \$500,000,000 (five hundred million dollars) in an endowment or net worth not exempt from paying property taxes.

You can contact the Committee at
Committee on Taxation
The State House Room 236
Boston MA 02133
617-722-2430

or Roy Bercaw at above address. You are invited to testify or to submit written support for the bill.

Roy Bercaw



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HOUSE No. 3636

By Mr. Barrios of Cambridge (by request), petition of Roy Bercaw relative to the payment of property taxes by charitable institutions. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AMENDS M.G.L. CHAPTER 59 SEC. 5

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES BY CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 The following words are to be inserted after section 5, third (e):
- 2 Any not for profit institution which has accumulated more than
- 3 \$500,000,000.00 (five hundred million dollars) in an endowment,
- 4 or net worth or any combination of the two, shall not be exempt.
- 5 Allowing charitable institutions to hold enormous funds and then
- 6 allow them to participate in buying land and not have to pay taxes
- 7 on that land is an unfair practice. Private for profit developers are
- 8 unable to compete with an alleged charitable institution which
- 9 uses a pretext of accumulation land under their alleged mission.
- 10 This is a particularly acute problem with MIT and Harvard Uni-
- 11 versity which purchases land and do not have to pay property
- 12 taxes. They develop their land further into the formerly residential
- 13 neighborhoods of Cambridge destroying the historical demog-
- 14 raphy of the city. Harvard and MIT also purchase vast tracts of
- 15 land in Boston.

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Consent Communication #4

A communication was received from Roy Bercaw, Editor, Enough Room, transmitting a copy of House Bill 3636 relative to the payment of property taxes by charitable institutions.

In City Council May 21, 2001

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