



City of Cambridge

62.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 17, 1994

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: In a recent article written by Howard Manley of the Boston Globe, a detailed distribution of the tax exempt property owned by Harvard University was discussed; and

WHEREAS: The City is nearly reaching its 2 1/2 cap; and

WHEREAS: The City must plan on how to deal with future cost increases by way of raising additional revenue; and

WHEREAS: Harvard and some other tax exempt owners give the City a yearly gift in lieu of taxes; and

WHEREAS: During the last ten years, while Proposition 2 1/2 has been in effect, Harvard and other tax exempt owners have continued to acquire property and remove them in part or in total, in most cases, from the tax rolls of the City; and

WHEREAS: This continual reduction in this tax base has a negative effect on the residents and businesses of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: The gifts in lieu offered by this tax exempt institution have not increased in proportion to the taxable property removed; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager advise this City Council as to the option, if any, available to the Council, including but not limited to filing home rule legislation to prevent the further reduction of the tax base and to advise the Council as to what action can be taken to restore those properties purchased by tax exempt institutions such as Harvard and M.I.T. since the inception of Proposition 2 1/2; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to advise the Council by October 31, 1994.

In City Council October 17, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury,
City Clerk

RECORDED COUNCILLOR MYERS AS PRESENT

62

October 13, 1994

COUNCILLOR WALSH

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- WHEREAS: Harvard and some other tax exempt owners give the City a yearly gift in lieu of taxes; and
- WHEREAS: During the last ten years while Proposition 2 1/2 has been in effect, Harvard and other tax exempt owners have continued to acquire property and remove them in part or in total, in most cases, from the tax rolls of the City; and
- WHEREAS: This continual reduction in this tax base has a negative effect on the residents and businesses of Cambridge; and

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WHEREAS: The gifts in lieu offered by this tax exempt institution have not increased in proportion to the taxable property removed; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager advise this City Council as to the option, if any, available to the Council, including but not limited to filing home rule legislation to prevent the further reduction of the tax base and to advise the Council as to what action can be taken to restore those properties purchased by tax exempt institutions such as Harvard and M.I.T. since the inception of Proposition 2 1/2. The Manager is further requested to advise the Council by October 31, 1994.



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COUNCILLOR WALSH

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ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to advise the Council by October 31, 1994.

Sullivan, Foomey

Consent Order #62

CM-359

Councillor Walsh re: Tax exempt
property owned by Harvard University.

In City Council,

October 17, 1994

Order adopted.