

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

Order #22

In City Council 2/8 1993

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
			✓	Mr. Ed Cyr
			✓	Mr. Francis H. Duehay
			✓	Mr. Jonathan S. Myers
✓				Mrs. Sheila T. Russell
✓				Mr. Walter J. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Mr. William H. Walsh
✓				Ms. Alice K. Wolf
	✓			Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves
5	1	0	3	



City of Cambridge

22.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 8, 1993

COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: It has always been the goal of this City Council as well as the City Manager to have all employees and boards be user-friendly; and

WHEREAS: Continual complaints have occurred regarding certain boards; and

WHEREAS: A Cambridge resident named John F. Natale has sent a copy of the attached letter to the City Council complaining about certain remarks made by a member of the Cambridge Rent Control Board; and

WHEREAS: It is an important goal of this City Council to be sure that now person or class of people are discriminated against; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate the contents of the attached letter as it pertains to the remark attributed to Mr. Jacks and advise the City Council as to how this matter will be resolved if in fact the statement was made.

In City Council February 8, 1993.

Adopted by a ye and nay vote:-

Yeas 5; Nays 1; Absent 0; Present 3.

ATTEST:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

92-4th St. Cambridge. Ma. 02141
Jan. 27, 1993

Dear Mr. Jacks,

Last week during one of the cases before the Board, 1558 Mass Ave., you made an extremely anti-owner remark, even for that place where one often hears extreme anti-owner remarks. Myself and three other owners heard you say: "Owners are horribly desperate people who are willing to do what's necessary to balance their budgets". We do not consider ourselves to be horribly desperate but were certainly horrified by that comment.

That you consider us so, renders you, in my opinion, incapable of making a decision favorable to the owners and you should resign from the Board.

Despite efforts by the Executive Director to make owners feel they will be treated there with respect and fairness, at least to the limited extent permitted by the Regulations themselves, attitudes and philosophies like yours at that agency, are what give the RCB such a very bad reputation among owners. Your open hostility toward owners is a far and disappointing cry from your first night on the Board a year ago when you voted on the basis of "common sense"; many of us thought then we at last had a non-ideologue, a fair minded person. It has pretty much been down hill from there. Now we must deal with another Tim Conner who has an unblemished record of anti owner votes.

Even had you not made that particular statement, your advocacy for a 50% reduction in rent in that case where it was the owner who made the lead discovery, where it was the owner who voluntarily made and paid for alternate housing while the lead was removed, where there were no children occupants but a 30 year old male, where no damage had been done, no one had been poisoned etc. etc., is not only counter productive to the policy of encouraging owners to voluntarily find and remove lead on their own, but it is a punishment that doesn't fit the crime. Your recommendation for a 50 % reduction in rent is an extreme punitive measure and a terrible precedent. Even the voted reduction of 15% was entirely uncalled for and may exceed the authority of the Board.

I wonder what your feeling is about monetarily punishing a tenant, say, to the tune of a several thousand dollar contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the presence in his apartment of oven cleaner, silver polish, tile cleaner, liquid plumber, wax remover, etc. etc. all of which are much more lethal and much more accessible than a square inch of lead 10' feet off the floor. Is there any oven cleaner in your apartment?

Perhaps there was some other meaning to your remark that escaped us. If so, I would very much appreciate an explanation.

Sincerely,


John F. Natale
SPOA Member



City of Cambridge

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JF", located to the right of the City of Cambridge title.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 4, 1993

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS, It has always been the goal of this City Council as well as the City Manager to have all employees and boards be user-friendly; and

WHEREAS, continual complaints have occurred regarding certain boards; and

WHEREAS, a Cambridge resident named John F. Natale has sent a copy of the attached letter to the City Council complaining about certain remarks made by a member of the Cambridge Rent Control Board; and

WHEREAS, it is an important goal of this City Council to be sure that no person or class of people are discriminated against.

RESOLVED, That the City Manager be requested to investigate the contents of the attached letter as it pertains to the remark attributed to Mr. Jacks and advise the City Council as to how this matter will be resolved if in fact the statement was made.

92-4th St. Cambridge. Ma. 02141

Jan. 27, 1993

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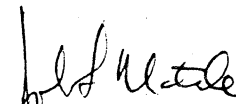
Despite efforts by the Executive Director to make owners feel they will be treated there with respect and fairness, at least to the limited extent permitted by the Regulations themselves, attitudes and philosophies like yours at that agency, are what give the RCB such a very bad reputation among owners. Your open hostility toward owners is a far and disappointing cry from your first night on the Board a year ago when you voted on the basis of "common sense"; many of us thought then we at last had a non-ideologue, a fair minded person. It has pretty much been down hill from there. Now we must deal with another Tim Conner who has an unblemished record of anti owner votes.

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NON-CONSENT ORDER #22

Quarrell

CM 35

Councillor Walsh re: Investigation of
the contents of a communication received
from John F. Natale.

*Rep. received 3/1/93 -
see Agenda # 16 of
3/1/93*

In City Council,

February 8, 1993

*Order Accepted
5-1-0-3*