



City of Cambridge

57.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 29, 1996

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The W.R. Grace Company site at 62 Whittimore Avenue in North Cambridge has a history of uses as a chemical production facility; and

WHEREAS: North Cambridge residents are concerned about the potential health effects of any hazardous waste that may remain at the W.R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group is a group of North Cambridge residents who are concerned with environmental issues at the W.R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group has dedicated considerable time and personal resources to investigating hazardous waste contamination issues at the W.R. Grace site and communicating findings to the greater North Cambridge community and relevant public and private parties; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group is committed to full and open public participation in addressing environment issues at the W.R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group has applied to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for a Technical Assistance Grant to help further investigate and analyze hazardous waste contamination issues at the W.R. Grace site and communicate any relevant information to the greater North Cambridge community and to interested public and private parties; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record supporting the Alewife Study Group's Technical Assistance Grant application; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Department of Environmental Protection.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-


D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

residents have concerning contamination at the grace site.

At a future time, I would like to speak with the committee about a state and regional action plan in the area. Given the location of the Grace site, abutting a state parkway, wetlands, and public transportation and alternative pathways, and within a stone's throw of Arlington and Belmont, broader considerations and resources should be brought to bear here.

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Councillor Sullivan

July 29, 1996

Ordered: That the City Clerk prepare a ~~resolution~~ ^{resolution} of this Council's support of the North Cambridge residents' application for a technical assistance grant before the Department of Environmental Protection.

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press release

Alice K. Wolf

48 Huron Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone (617) 868 - 8127
Fax (617) 497 - 7284

July 22, 1996

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the Environment Committee
Cambridge City Council

From: Alice Wolf

Re: Support for independent traffic and environmental studies at
and surrounding the W. R. Grace site.

I am here to support strongly the proposal for independent traffic and environmental studies at the W. R. Grace site and in the neighborhood surrounding the site, including Russell Field.

Further, I recommend, based on my work in this neighborhood and on other controversial development sites, that the community be the driving force in the selection of consultants and oversight of the studies in collaboration with the City Manager's office.

In my experience, community concerns are addressed only if they are brought into play right from the beginning. Often the community has its say when the analyses are complete, sabotaging the possibility of building consensus around a plan. If the community is allowed to drive this process, everyone will be able to agree on a plan that works. A genuine cooperative spirit is necessary. And, after all, it's the community that remembers the mounds of sludge on the site and it is their children whose health is at stake. The residents should lead the process.

This environmental work is critical. The 1987 Spengler report, that was prepared when I chaired this Environment Committee, made it clear that additional environmental analyses are necessary before development work proceeds at the Grace site. I am pleased to see that, with renewed interest in development, this committee is moving forward with these analyses and with concern for an up-to-date traffic analysis.

I also urge the Environment Committee to contact the state's Department of Environmental Protection, as I have, to support the Technical Assistance Grant application that has been submitted by North Cambridge residents. This TAG grant would provide direct funding to residents to help them address environmental concerns related to the Grace site. Combined with a city sponsored analysis, this grant would help answer many important questions

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July 1996

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RESOLUTION

BY NORTH CAMBRIDGE SIMONE LAFRANCIA

WHEREAS: The W. R. Grace Co. site at 62 Whitmore Avenue in North Cambridge has a history of use as a chemical production facility; and

~~WHEREAS: North Cambridge residents are concerned that hazardous waste remains at the W. R. Grace site;~~

WHEREAS: North Cambridge residents are concerned ^{about} the potential health effects of any hazardous waste that may remain at the W. R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group is a group of North Cambridge residents who are concerned with environmental issues at the W. R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group has dedicated considerable time and personal resources to investigating hazardous waste contamination issues at the W. R. Grace site and communicating findings to the greater North Cambridge community and relevant public and private parties; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group is committed to full and open public participation in addressing environmental issues at the W. R. Grace site; and

WHEREAS: The Alewife Study Group has applied to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for a Technical Assistance Grant to help further investigate and analyze hazardous waste contamination issues at the W. R. Grace site and communicate any relevant information to the greater North Cambridge community and to interested public and private parties; now therefore be it

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IN CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

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Born, Davis, Diener, Gallyccio, Russell

Consent Order #57

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Councillors Triantafillou and Sullivan

re: Support the Alewife Study Group's
Technical Assistance Grant application.

R-793

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In City Council July 29, 1996

Order Adopted