

ENOUGH ROOM  
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\* Watch Enough Room LIVE! Tuesday 4:30 PM \*  
\* Channel 9 Cambridge Community Television \*  
\* \* \* Rebroadcast Wednesday 9:00 AM \* \* \* \*

Honorable Members of the  
Cambridge City Council  
795 Mass Ave.  
Cambridge MA 02139

October 11, 2000

Re: Low income housing

Mayor Galluccio reportedly said that the City Council's "number one priority" is [affordable housing]. (Leigh Hornbeck, "VFW may become affordable housing," October 11, 2000, page one) But on Jan. 24, 2000 this same City Council voted to sell a city-owned former firehouse to a private developer to use for private temporary housing.

CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE

Was the City Council's "number one priority" different then? In December 1999 the City Manager reported that that parcel at 350 Main Street could be used for 31 units of city owned permanent housing. Yet on January 24, 2000 the City Manager said it could only be used for 7 units. Why did the City Manager "recommend" in July that the former VFW be used for housing but not the Main Street firehouse? Was the proximity to MIT any factor?

Unlike the former firehouse in North Cambridge which saw "eight in all" public meetings, the vote to sell the Main Street firehouse came in the middle of a controversial discussion.

Why has the City Council not explored the use of the wide open space between Harvard Yard and the Science Center (city owned land) in front of the Fire Department Headquarters for a high rise of affordable housing? This is a more appropriate location for public low income housing than North Cambridge. It would allow for tens of units not just six. It would also create a mixed, diverse use of the land to change it from solely elitist academic uses.

This is city land used almost exclusively by Harvard University with their \$19 billion endowment. Why isn't it being used for public housing if the Council's "number one priority" is housing?

Roy Bercau

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Consent Communication #13

A communication was received from  
Roy Bercaw, Editor, Enough Room,  
relative to the issue of  
affordable housing in the City  
of Cambridge.

In Ctiy Council October 16, 2000

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