



City of Cambridge

O-5

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2002

COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of John T. O'Connor at the age of 46 on November 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS: John T. O'Connor was a leader in Cambridge who also had significant impacts on national and international issues related to the environment and human rights; and

WHEREAS: John was the chairman of Gravestar, Inc., the founder of Greenworks, an environmental activist, a developer, a former political candidate, involved with the youth of the city, and was the director of the Cambridge Irish Famine Memorial Committee; and

WHEREAS: As a recent college graduate John began his career as an advocate for change by working in the neighborhoods of Worcester, fighting against arson and pollution and starting the grassroots Massachusetts Fair Share Program; and

WHEREAS: In 1983, John founded the National Toxics Campaign, which was instrumental in getting the \$8 billion Superfund federal environmental cleanup law passed; and

WHEREAS: John was a philanthropist who supported many local and national charities and assisted individuals; he also fought against deregulation of the electric industry in Massachusetts and founded the Health Action Alliance, which is working to bring universal health care to the Bay State; and

WHEREAS: John grew up in Stratford, Connecticut and became involved in environmental issues when an asbestos manufacturer in Stratford built a little league field over a toxic dump that allegedly caused the death of a friend from cancer; and

WHEREAS: John was a graduate of Clark University; and

WHEREAS: John was the author of two books on environmental issues, *Getting the Lead Out* and *Who Owns the Sun*; and

WHEREAS: John is survived by his wife Carolyn G. Mugar; his daughter Chloe; his parents Katherine and George F. O'Connor, Jr.; his sister Emily Karolyi; his brothers Jeff and James A. O'Connor; his brother-in-law Sandor Karolyi; his sisters-in-law Amy and Daria O'Connor; his nieces Mary and Kaitlin O'Connor, Jennifer Flaherty, and Lexy, Kati, and Emily Karolyi; his nephews Jimmy O'Connor, Peter Flaherty, and Peter and John Mugar; and his many godchildren; and

WHEREAS: John was a great man who, with his great love and his unyielding drive to help others, made this community and the world a better place; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record dedicating the Basketball Courts at the Corporal Burns Playground as

**The John T. O'Connor
1954 – 2001
Basketball Courts**

in memory of John O'Connor, who in his activist career always maintained his involvement in youth organizations, as well as his love of basketball; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of John T. O'Connor at the dedication ceremony on June 21, 2003.

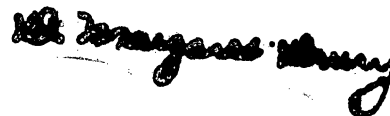
In City Council June 10, 2002.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

O-5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 10, 2002

COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record dedicating the Basketball Courts at the Corporal Burns Playground in memory of John O'Connor, a longtime activist involved in youth organizations; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Assistant to the City Council plan a dedication ceremony after consultation with the family and a suitable sign be prepared by the Public Works Department.

In City Council June 10, 2002.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

11-65

ORDER #5

Dedicate the Basketball Courts at the
Corporal Burns Playground in memory
of John O'Connor, a longtime activists
involved in youth organizations.
Councillor Galluccio

In City Council June 10, 2002

ORDER ADOPTED.