

April 5, 1995

To: Mayor Reeves, Vice Mayor Russell, Councillors Born, Triantafillou, Sullivan, Toomey, Myers, Duehay, Galluccio.

From: John Moot, 44 Coolidge Hill Rd. Cambridge

Subject: **A Residency Requirement for City Employees**

A residency requirement for City employees is not in the best interest of the residents of Cambridge.

- 1.- It inevitably will lead to limitations of job opportunities for Cambridge residents. Other communities in metropolitan Boston will retaliate and adopt similar regulations, as Somerville and Boston already have. Do Cambridge workers wish to give up the opportunity of jobs in adjacent communities in exchange for a lock on the municipal jobs in Cambridge?
- 2.- The quality and efficiency of municipal services in Cambridge will be put at risk. No longer will the City Manager, the Superintendent of Schools or the Executive Director of the Hospital have access to all of the talents in the metropolitan area of 3 million, but will be restricted to the working population of a city of only 80,000 (after excluding students). From this 80,000 must be deducted not only the children, but also all those presently running their own businesses or happily employed elsewhere. At any one time, the number of workers interested in applying for a job with the City is very small, and in times of low unemployment almost negligible. When narrowed down to a particular trade, there may be very few.
- 3.- The provision that the City can recruit from anywhere, but the individual must move into the City within 6 months does not expand the labor pool significantly. The solid, able worker who has settled elsewhere is not likely to be prepared to make the move to Cambridge. Nor will the Cambridge resident want to move to accept a position in a neighboring town. His/her spouse and the children are to be considered, not to mention the possible loss from selling the home and buying in Cambridge. Housing in Cambridge is not readily available nor modestly priced as everyone knows.

The Cambridge resident is not well served by cutting up this metropolitan area into little fiefdoms. We should not encourage the limitation on the freedoms of our residents by contributing to the Balkanization of one of the greatest metropolitan areas in the world.



Consent Communication # 30-10

Communication from John Moot, 44 Coolidge Hill Road, regarding a Residency Requirement for City Employees.

In City Council,

April 10, 1995

Referred to the Petition.