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CAMBRIDGE MA.

93 Montgomery Street
Cambridge MA 02140
November 9, 1992

City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Sir:

I wish to have an item placed on the agenda of the City Council meeting on Monday, November 16. It concerns the "trash cop" enforcement program planned by the city's recycling program, as reported in the Cambridge Chronicle of November 5. I will attend that meeting and am willing to speak briefly on the issue.

This plan constitutes a brazen and alarming invasion of personal privacy. It is bad policy for city officials to engage in espionage by rifling through people's trash, however noble their intentions.

If the aim is to increase compliance with the city's recycling efforts, non-invasive motivational campaigns should be explored. I suggest three: (1) targeted "Get out the Trash" flyer campaigns on non-complying streets; (2) brief columns in the weekly Cambridge press on technical aspects of our recycling program (e.g., questions from readers or quizzes with prizes); (3) friendly phone calls to suspected non-recyclers asking if they would like information or explanations of the city's recycling policy.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 547-6434.

Very truly yours,

Peter H. Desmond

Peter H. Desmond

cc: Cambridge City Council
Jan Aceti, Recycling Coordinator
Boston Coalition for Freedom of Expression
Susan Pollack, City Section, Boston Globe

Consent Comm. # 4

Comm. from Peter H. Desmond, 93
Montgomery St., in opposition to
trash police enforcement of the
recycling ordinance.

SD-960

In City Council,

November 16, 1992

Placed on file