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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Star Poole

13 October 1994

TO: Cambridge City Clerk
Attention: City Council

Dear Councillors:

I own a home in a residential area near Central Square at the above address and am concerned about the increasing levels of loud, musical noise that intrude from outside it when I am in what I count on to be its privacy.

I am an artist and an editor. In the exercise of either of these practices I find concentration a necessity. Any loud but especially regular or rhythmic noise intrusion interferes with my concentration. When my work issues from sessions contaminated by the noise from, for instance, the Greek festival (held in late summer), it is mediocre at best.

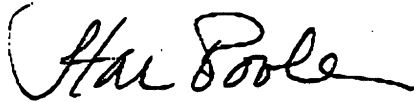
When I first took occupancy at the above address I realized it would apparently be necessary for me to arrange to be elsewhere at the time of the Greek festival. This was not always simple to arrange, but even so has proved possible. Now it seems there are quite a few festivals in Central Square, many or all of which generate electrically amplified musical noise that I find invasive.

Moving the special events involving amplified sound farther in the direction of MIT would not be helpful unless the noise levels were kept within reasonable limits. For instance, a couple of years ago the Caribbean festival was held somewhere closer to MIT than it was this year (and therefore farther away from my property) yet the music from it was all too audible in my bedroom where at the time I lay ill. I would suggest that the City specify upper limits for the amplification of music when it issues permits for special events and that it then enforce those limits during the events.

Last and not least is that on innumerable occasions my pursuit of the quiet enjoyment of my leisure time has been thwarted by the imposition of loud music issuing from outside my property for which the special events in Central Square (that have so often degraded the quality of my life) were NOT responsible. Sometimes the music issuing from neighboring houses is so loud that no amount of closing of windows or turning on of "white noise" machines will screen out the irritating, mood-inhibiting distraction of its repetitive thumping. I have on occasion reported such disturbances to the Cambridge police, who tell me there's little they can do about them before 11 P.M. At such times it has occurred to me that one advantage to my owning a home in what appears to be becoming a noise mecca is that as I grow older I won't have to completely regret losing my hearing.

I request that the appropriate authority within the City of Cambridge take corrective action concerning these unfair noise conditions and that I be advised of what measures are being taken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Star Poole".

Star Poole

cc: The Hon. Kenneth W. Reeves

S- 455

Consent Comm #3

A comm. was received from Star
Poole regarding the noise pollution
in the Central Square area.

In City Council October 24, 1994

Referred to the
City Manager.
10/25/94 copy sent to City
mgr dl