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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Robert J. La Tremouille  
348 Franklin Street  
Cambridge, Ma. 02139

Dear Robert:

I thank you for all you have fought for over the years to protect the rights of the people in this city. Now we have another zoning violation that we hope you can stop before it gets worse.

We who live in Cambridgeport in the Green St./Franklin St. area have to put up with the noise, traffic and loss of community from the large office zone on Massachusetts Avenue. It's bad enough to have the office zone there. Now we have businesses violating the office zone rules and making things even worse.

I'm referring to the new retail store on the corner of Mass. Ave. and Sellars Street, diagonally across from City Hall. Earlier, the family-run Bigelow Restaurant was there. Although the Bigelow was in violation of the zoning code, at least it provided some services back to the neighborhood. But now we have a mattress company that's clearly a violation of the codes (Sec. 4.35) prohibiting retail there.

Several different times, I saw a sixty-foot long tractor trailer parking on the steep hillside on Sellars Street while unloading their merchandise for several hours. What if their next trailer starts to slip backwards, especially since it's often icy there? Cars parked on the street would be crushed. A kid coming out of the Phoenix School would be in danger.

This store attracts a lot of outsiders, increasing the traffic, clutter, noise and parking problems. They even took away two metered parking spots for their loading zone! What right does a commercial business that's in clear violation of the zoning laws have to take away our parking? We never got any notice from City Hall about any of this. Can't you help us out?

Cordially,



A Concerned Neighbor

copy: The Phoenix School

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348 Franklin Street  
Cambridge, MA. 02139-3731  
December 5, 1986  
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City Council  
City of Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, MA.  
City Manager  
City of Cambridge

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE:

Enclosed for your information, guidance, and action is a letter I received today. Since it is signed I do not think it is intended to be anonymous; regretablely, I cannot make out the signature.

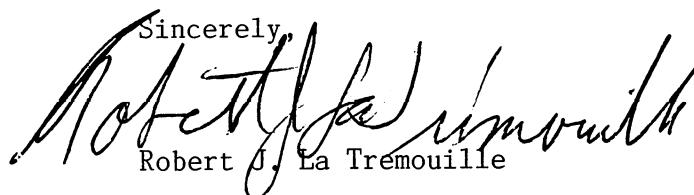
This neighbor of the YMCA is concerned about the major changes which have occurred in that building. The Y had a neighborhood-type restaurant in it, the sort of business which is commonly seen in Y's. The management of the Y got greedy, raised the rent and drove out this business, replacing it with a use that clearly jars with the building and the neighborhood. The Y also manages a parking lot on Green Street which flagrantly violates the zoning requirements for amenities required for parking lots.

The responsible body, as is frequently the case, is the Board of Zoning Appeals. The BZA, in most cases, looks at the application, looks around the room to see if there is any one in the room who might sue, and the more likely than not, rubber stamps the developer. Occasionally they think about issues, particularly if there is some one in the room who looks like they might sue.

Control of the Board of Zoning Appeals clearly lies in the City Manager, since he has standing to sue himself, when the Board of Zoning Appeals is not behaving in accordance with its legal responsibilities. The City Manager refused to do so when the City Council asked him to do so with regard to 871 Massachusetts Avenue. The City Council recently guaranteed the City Manager pay of \$380,000 for the next four years, whether he is fired or not.

I think that this resident has very valid points, but then I love Cambridge and I am very concerned about Cambridge's people. I think that developers should take second place to the needs of our residents and our children. This action, like so many other incredible actions in the development field, distresses me. The fact that this pattern is business as usual distresses me even more.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Tremouille

cc: The Phoenix School  
Board of Directors, YMCA  
John Pitkin, Chair, Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association  
Bill Cunningham, Chair, Riverside Organizing Community  
Cambridge Tab  
Cambridge Chronicle

14. S-660

Comm. from Robert J. LaTremouille, Esq.,  
Re: changes occurring in the YMCA building  
on Mass. Ave. & expressing concern on same.

In City Council,

December 8, 1986

*Referred to Inspectional  
Services Dept.*

*Copy sent to Mr. Cellucci, Inspectional  
Services Dept. 12/10/86 mch*