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1987 OCT 23 AM 8:11

CAMBRIDGE MA.

October 6, 1987

Mr. Fred _____
Owner
Coin-Operated Laundromat
Magazine Street and Allston Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Laundromat Owner:

The undersigned, residents of Allston Street, are deeply concerned about the trash problems generated by your laundromat. There are several issues that we are concerned about, including the method which the laundromat handles its trash, the incidental trash generated by the laundromat's users, and the laundromat's lint emissions. Although we have discussed some of these issues with you and with the women working for you, you have been unresponsive to date about our concerns.

The first issue--how the laundromat handles its trash--is one over which you have direct control. Although we have requested that trash bags not be dumped behind the laundromat, you persist on dumping bags and other debris directly behind the laundromat, as if this area were a dump.

The bags that are dumped in this manner often spill out onto Allston Street, and also pose other serious problems. First of all, they are often ripped open by dogs, cats, or people, and once open the trash often spreads around Allston Street. Secondly, your haphazard handling of the laundromat's trash has encouraged others to use this area in a similar way, so that trash bags and loose debris that is not generated by the laundromat is frequently dumped behind the laundromat. Thirdly, we are extremely concerned about recent reports indicating an increase in rodent problems in the Boston area, and the connection between such an increase and the practice of dumping uncovered trash bags and loose debris in an area. It is absolutely necessary that the laundromat's trash problems be handled before a rodent problem arises, and not afterwards.

Of equal importance is the fact that for those of us who live near the laundromat, and cannot leave it behind us at the end of a work day, the aesthetics of our neighborhood is extremely important. You are operating a commercial establishment in the middle of a very dense residential neighborhood. It is imperative, as a result, that you be a good neighbor and take concern in how our neighborhood looks, which has many effects upon all of us. We thus request that you clean up the area behind the laundromat and start placing the laundromat's trash either in covered cans or in a plywood storage bin. Any worries you have about the improper use of such devices by others could be taken care of by putting a small fence in front of your trash storage area. Of course, these solutions mean that you or an employee of yours will have to

take the trash out on trash pick-up days, rather than relying on the trashmen coming into the alley, as they now do. However, this is a very minor task in comparison to the problem you are presently causing.

We recognize that it is much more difficult for you to do something about the incidental trash generated outside the laundromat by its users. However, you could (1) post notices inside and outside the laundromat requesting customers not to litter in the neighborhood, (2) place a trash can on the corner of Magazine and Allston Streets (to be brought in at night), and (3) have an employee clean the sidewalks occasionally.

We are a bit perplexed about the generation of lint on Allston Street by the laundromat. If it is coming from your cleaning of equipment out on the sidewalk, we request that the practice cease or that you clean up thoroughly after undertaking such work. If the lint is coming from your drier stacks, we believe you may well have a serious air emission problem on your hands. We intend to ask the Massachusetts DEQE and United States EPA for advice on this matter.

By copy of this letter to the Cambridge Inspectional Services Department, we are filing a formal complaint on the matters discussed herein. Hopefully, all the issues we have raised can be worked out in an amiable and agreeable way. As several of us have discussed, some of us are willing to help you in various ways to deal with these problems. However, we simply cannot accept the status quo as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Kaledin - 239 Allston Street
Christine M. Horgan 239 Allston Street
Nancy Brown Wentzell 239 Allston Street
J. E. Wentzell 239 Allston St.
Irene Aulup 237 Allston Street
Lee McConerty 240 Allston Street
Ann Garbanc 240 Allston Street
Mary Melanson 240 Allston Street
Joseph Melanson 240 Allston Street
Lottie S. Brown 239 Allston St.

cc: Cambridge Inspectional Services Department
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Tab Newspaper

8.

S-621

Comm. from Jonathan C. Kaledin, et al, residents of Allston St. transmitting a copy of their letter to the owner of the Coin-Operated Laundromat at Magazine & Allston St.'s expressing concern as to trash problems at the site.

RECEIVED BY
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1987 OCT 22 AM 9:58
CAMBRIDGE MA.

In City Council,

October 26, 1987

Referred to the City
Manager, Commissioner of Public
Works and Commissioner of
Departmental Services

Copy sent to the City Manager,
Public Works Commissioner
Departmental Services Commissioner
10/28/87 wh