



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

• (617) 498-9020

LAW DEPARTMENT

RUSSELL B. HIGLEY
CITY SOLICITOR

September 18, 1981

MICHAEL C. COSTELLO
ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR

EDWARD A. CUNNINGHAM
SEVERLIN B. SINGLETON
DAVID B. O'CONNOR
BIRGE ALBRIGHT
LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Re: G.L.c. 53, §18A

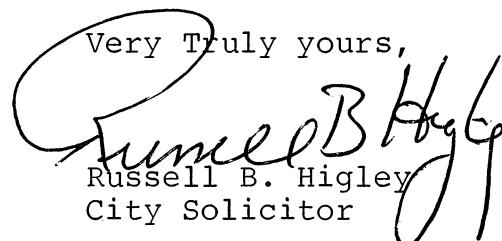
Dear Mr. Healy:

In your letter of September 17, you enclose a copy of an order adopted by the City Council on September 14 relative to placing a non-binding public opinion advisory question on the ballot. You state that a "question has arisen under the provisions of (G.L.c. 53, §18A) as to whether this question will appear on the ballot."

I believe that your question relates to the time period within which the Council must act in order to place a question on the ballot pursuant to G.L.c.53, §18A. On Friday, September 18, I talked to Marcia Molay, Director of the Elections Division in the Secretary of State's Office. She said that she interpreted §18A to mean that there were no legal deadlines regarding questions placed on the ballot by the City Council, as opposed to questions placed on the ballot by ten registered voters.

This means that the only deadline is the practical one imposed by the necessity to print the ballots in advance of the election. Susan Arthur at the Election Commission informs me that the deadline imposed by ballot printing is September 24.

Very Truly yours,


Russell B. Higley
City Solicitor

RBH:cp

cc: Mr. Robert Healy, City Manager
Election Commission

12.

S-461

Comm. from Russell B. Higley, City Solicitor
re: placing on the ballot a non-binding
public opinion question.

In City Council,

September 21, 1981

9/21/81

-Placed on File-