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We the undersigned support the attached petition.

CAMBRIDGE MA.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Mary Kent	165B Putnam Ave, Cambridge Mass 864-4493
C.T. Jerome Butler	165A Putnam Ave Cambridge
Paul Williams	161 Putnam Ave #2
James Michelson	161 PUTNAM AV. #4
Christine E. Arthur	139 Putnam Ave.
Richard W. Arthur	139 Putnam Ave.
May Ann Clark	137 Putnam Ave
Ann H. Nettle	137 Putnam Ave Cambridge
Mary Nettle	135 Putnam Cambridge Mass
Will Rice	167 Putnam Ave

PROPOSAL TO WIDEN ELMER STREET TO A WIDTH OF THIRTY (30' 0") FEET

Taking of Five (5' 0") Foot strip of land on the even numbered side of Elmer Street (numbers 4 through and including 36 per plan), and an easement on corner lot where Elmer Street, joins Hingham Street, so that at such time as that small residential property is no longer in use, is razed, or otherwise removed, the City will extend (what appears from the plan to be) the last 41' (forty one feet), to the corner of Hingham Street.

With the demolition and removal of the "laundry buildings", some of which appear to have been constructed in part on City of Cambridge land (but are now removed), this proposal takes no developed property; only a small strip of large back yards of buildings facing on Putnam Avenue, and a small strip along the side and at rear of the building facing on Hingham Street. We are advised the vacant lot at corner of Putnam Avenue and Hingham Street, next to the small residential property is in the same ownership, and if this is the fact there would be no hardship created. Similarly, we are advised the next property after the vacant lot north of Hingham Street, along Putnam Avenue, is in the same ownership. If either fact is correct, there would be no resulting hardship.

At the northerly end of Elmer Street, Harvard University (part of Peabody Terrace), has constructed and operates a garage for about four hundred cars. This results in very heavy traffic, day and night and weekends, on Elmer Street, which is too narrow to carry the load. With one row of parking on the odd numbered side, it is dangerous for cars to pass at best. This addition of five feet will bring the street up to roughly a standard width, alleviate traffic congestion and dangers, and enhance the neighborhood, improving Elmer Street from an "alley" to a Street.

The timing of this proposal is critical, and it should be implemented before there is construction, which would drive up the land costs and cause other difficulties.

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A substantial amount of the property involved is under a Notice Of Responsibility from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (per letter part of which was read to the City Council by the City Manager on 14 September 1987), and at this point cannot be built upon. If there is a building permit outstanding it appears to have been issued in error; there being no valid "21-E" and no presentation to, discussion by, or vote of the City Council per vote of November, 1982, which would require action by the City Council as a condition precedent to issuance of any building permit. (Street No.s 12-26).

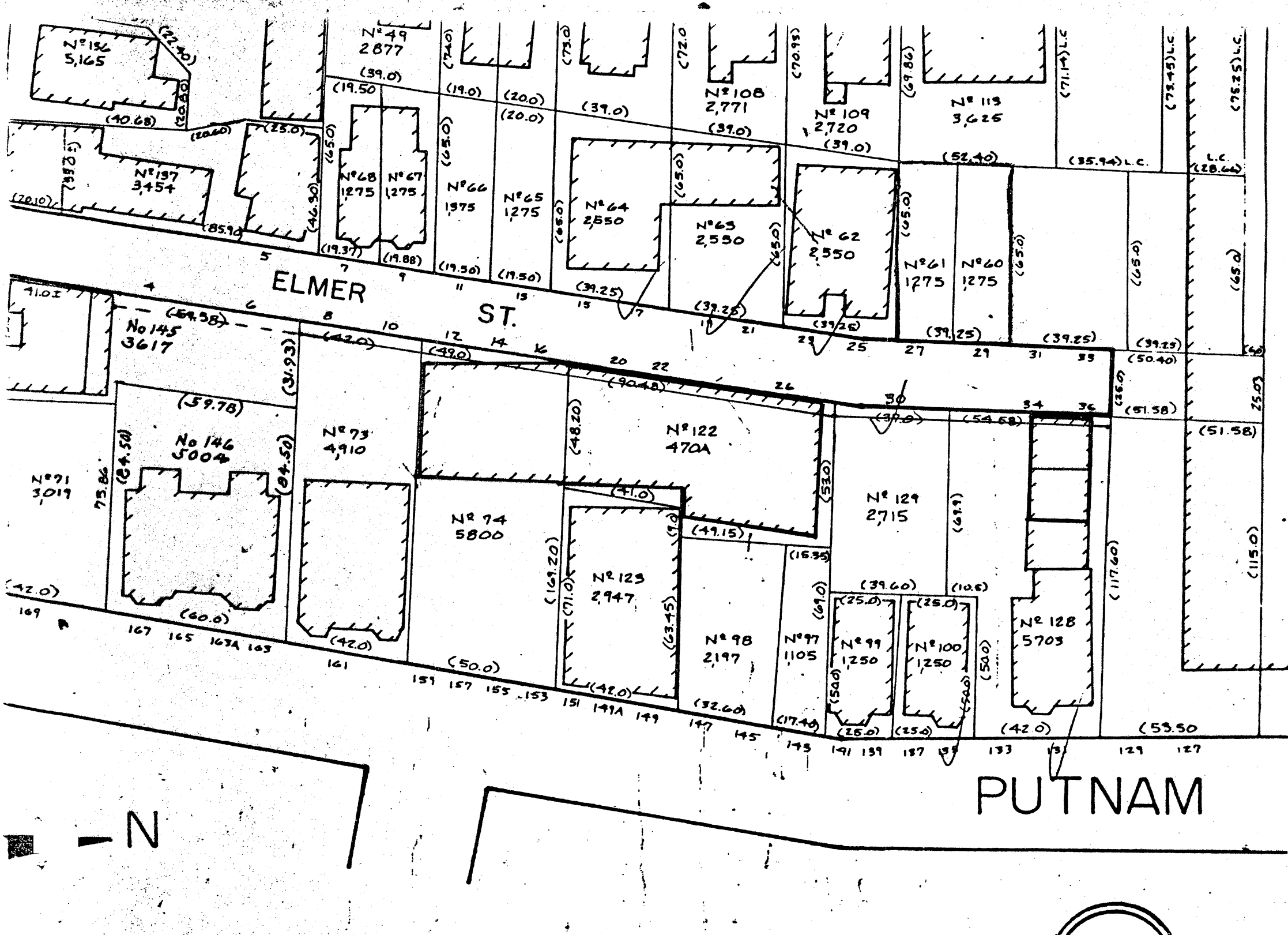
The rear yards of the other properties are not independent buildable lots, and the required takings would therefore cause a minimum of injury and a minimum of expense to the City. Large yards remain behind each property.

With the removal of the "laundry buildings," and the necessary removal of underground tanks which appear to be under the City Street, it is clear the street will have to be repaved. This is the time to effect the takings, install curbs and sidewalks, and repave Elmer Street, at minimum expense and inconvenience to all parties, owners, and tenants.

Explanation of plan herewith (photocopied from Assessors' Plan), at Building Dept.

Outlined in RED - masonry structures that have been removed by their owners.

Outlined in GREEN - proposed strip to be taken by eminent domain to widen Elmer Street. Dashed Segment over Street numbers 4 through 6, could either be taken or an easement put in place to assure land will not be built upon and may be taken later when the building at corner of Hingham Street, is taken out of use.



26.

H-171

Petition received from Mary Kent, 165B Putnam Ave.
et al, in support of the widening of Elmer Street
to thirty (30) feet.

In City Council,

October 19, 1987

*Referred to the City
Manager & Public
Works Commissioner*

*Copy sent to C. Mgr &
Public Works Commr.
10/20/87 @*