



City of Cambridge

O-12.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 16, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner to investigate and report back on the incident at 1100 Massachusetts Avenue described in the attached letter.

In City Council October 16, 2000.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

REFERRED TO THE CIVIC UNITY COMMITTEE, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND POLICE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD ON MOTION OF COUNCILLOR DECKER.

C R J : A

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September 19, 2000

Mr. Ronnie Watson
Commissioner of Police
5 Western Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139


Dear Commissioner Watson:

We experienced a very distressing situation on September 19, 2000 that we feel you should know about. Our office building at 1100 Massachusetts Avenue was under siege with police officers pursuing a suspect who had eluded their capture. During this pursuit, the police officers were performing random checks of the areas within our building yet outside of our office space. As this building is just one of our firm's three separate locations, our staff members were traveling in between locations while performing their work. Numerous employees entered and exited the building without being approached by the police, however, one of our African-American staff members was accosted while exiting the elevator on the ground floor. This professional had a rifle pointed to his face and was ordered to put his hands up and get against the wall. Only when another officer appeared, assessed his race and realized that their intended suspect was indeed white, did they unapologetically go back to business.

This event was extremely jarring to this employee and to our entire staff – how did this officer assess the situation? Why was an African-American targeted with such an extreme response while our white employees came and went unmolested?

Please respond in writing to our firm as we all – and one staff member in particular – await some explanation of this disturbing issue.

Sincerely,


Harry S. Fuller
President

cc: Robert W. Healy – City Manager, City of Cambridge
City Council Members – City of Cambridge:

- Kathleen Born
- Jim Braude
- Henrietta Davis
- Marjorie Decker
- Anthony Galluccio
- David Maher
- Kenneth Reeves
- Michael Sullivan
- Timothy Toomey, Jr.

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THOMAS R DOOLITTLE
CHRISTOPHER M JONES
JAMES P SHADLEY
JOHN TINGLEY
MARY ALICE VAN SICKLE
VALDIS ZUSMANIS

CAROL R JOHNSON ASSOCIATES INC

Landscape Architects	:	Environmental Plann
1100 Massachusetts Avenue	:	P 617 868 6115
Cambridge MA 02138	:	F 617 864 7890
www.crja.com	:	E info@crja.com

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Order #12 Oct 16

Needs attachment

Please send to:

Human Rights Commission
51 June St.

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O: That the CM ker 43 is requested to

refer w/ the Police Commissioner to

for investigation and report back in the

matter ~~as~~ described in the attached

letter



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

October 16, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner to investigate and report back on the incident at 1100 Massachusetts Avenue described in the attached letter.

Order #12

Report on the police incident at
1100 Massachusetts Avenue.

Councillor Davis

In City Council October 16, 2000

ORDER ADOPTED

*Referred to the Civic Unity, Human
Rights Commission + PRAB on motion of
Councillor Reeves;
copy sent to Councillor Decker*