



City of Cambridge

48.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 24, 1997

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Public Works Department, the Law Department and the Water Department with respect to the attached communication regarding sewer pipe construction and report back to the City Council, the report should include information about how other communities have handled this problem.

In City Council November 24, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

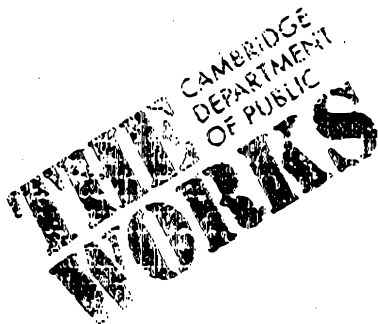
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



November 20, 1997

Ms. Maria Carmen Miranda
142 Cherry St.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

Dear Ms. Miranda:

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

The City of Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) has determined that raw sewage discharge from your property is entering the City's storm drains and being carried to the Charles River or other Cambridge waterways, preventing it from entering the City's sanitary sewers and being treated at the waste water treatment facility. Current State and Federal laws prohibit any sanitary sewage discharge carried from private property from entering the Charles River and other Cambridge waterways.

The City has determined that the sewer pipe connection from your property to the City main is thus illicit. Information the City has received indicated that many private property owners have such illicit connections. This is an environmentally unhealthy situation, which has caused the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue an Administrative Order pursuant to the Clean Water Act to remove all such illicit connections promptly. Elimination of such illicit sanitary sewer connections should significantly improve water quality in the lower Charles River during dry weather.

Because of this Administrative Order and the illicit connection from your property, either you or the City must remove the illicit connection at once. As part of the City's response to the EPA Order, the DPW has contracted with a number of Construction firms to correct these connections throughout the City. In other words, the pipe work from your property will be redirected from the storm drain to the sanitary sewer by excavating in the street adjacent to your property. It is expected that the reconnection will take approximately one working day to remedy and that sanitary services will be unavailable for two to three hours during that work.

As indicated above, we are required by the terms of the EPA Order to do this corrective work to or have it done by all property owners with illicit connections within a very narrow time frame. By City Ordinance, the service connection running from private property to the main is the responsibility of the property owner. If you decide to do the work on your own, you must contact the City immediately. We are proposing to do this



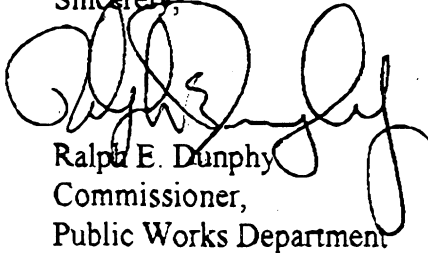
November 20, 1997

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work in the near future, however, and believe that we can have the work done at a significantly reduced cost due to the volume of work to City has contracted to have done. If you agree to have the City's contractors perform the work required, we will notify you within 72 hours of the proposed start time. The cost of the required work will be passed on to you by the City after the work is completed. Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep costs at a minimum and to call as little disruption as possible. If however, you decide to do the work yourself, it must be completed by not later than thirty (30) days from the date of this letter or the City reserves the right to cause the work to be completed due to its legal obligations and health concerns as set forth above.

If you have any questions with regard to the above please call the DPW at (617) 349-4800. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to resolve this important environmental problem.

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner,
Public Works Department

RED/a

TT: CM confer w/ DPW Law Dept Water Dept
 FD w/ respect to the attached communication
 MSR re: sewer pipe construction & report to the C.C.
 AG at report to include info about how other communities
 have handled this problem.

VJ/9

~~opportunities for~~
~~sewer~~
~~construction~~

review letter re: user friendliness - MS
 ① & give basic info about this
 situation

VJ/9

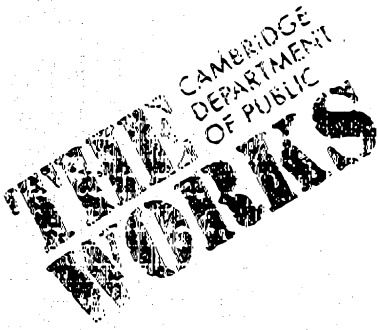
TT SR

C mgr, emp^l Public Works, Law Dept &

Pr of PWT & for
Water Dept.

of M. L. by R. L. & A.

4 - 204



November 20, 1997

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Cambridge, MA 02139

Ralph E. Dunphy
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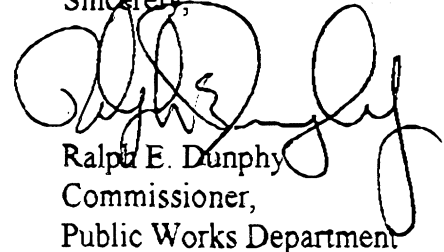
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Sincerely,



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner,
Public Works Department

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A true copy;

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ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Consent Order #48

CM-832

Councillors Toomey, Duehay, Mayor Russell,
and Councillor Galluccio re: Report on
sewer pipe construction.

In City Council November 24, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED