

made some significant improvements in our community, but that the job is far from completed.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

We are attempting to find additional resources for our neighborhood through the Just-A-Start Program, and would appreciate your support in these efforts. We shall also be informing state and federal officials of our feeling that neighborhood improvement programs cannot simply be abandoned and requesting that they reinstate some of the major tools of these programs, such as the Section 312 loans and Section 115 \$3500 grant for home improvement, and the Section 235, 236 and Turnkey programs for new construction, rehabilitation and home ownership.

The Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given to our efforts in the past. We are sure that you will continue to assist us in our efforts to prevent the abandonment of neighborhood improvement programs in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Bright
Chairman

RWB:amo

cc: Robert F. Rowland, Executive Director
Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee
920 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

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August 13, 1973

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Gentlemen:

As you may know, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority was recently forced to make a number of personnel cuts because of cutbacks in federal funding. Many of the staff people whose jobs were affected were working in the Wellington-Harrington Program. The Wellington-Harrington Citizens Committee is therefore quite concerned about the impact that these reductions will surely have on our efforts to improve and upgrade our community.

Our Committee has been in existence for nine years. During that time we have participated in the creation of a neighborhood renewal plan, the Wellington-Harrington Plan, designed to benefit, not destroy our community, and stressing rehabilitation, not demolition. Through the efforts of the CRA staff in the Wellington-Harrington Program, hundreds of homes have been rehabilitated and made safe for occupancy. Because of the 3% loan program, which has not been available for almost a year, it has been possible to upgrade homes without placing an impossible financial burden on homeowners or tenants. Because of the economic feasibility approach which has been developed, emphasizing the use of supplemental resources instead of raising rents indiscriminately, tenants have not been forced to move because of rent increases caused by rehabilitation. Also through the Wellington-Harrington Program, Harwell Homes, a Section 236 cooperative of new homes, has been built and is not occupied happily by community people. The Wellington-Harrington Development Corporation is currently working on three additional housing units for our community's families and elderly. It would seem that programs are being cut back just when our years of effort are actually bearing fruit.

We realize that City officials have no control over the actions of the federal government which have resulted in the cutting back of our community improvement program. Our purpose in writing this letter is simply to bring to your attention the fact that we feel that we have

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Comm. from Robert W. Bright, Chairman of
the Wellington-Harrington Citizens Comm.
relative to the cutbacks in federal funding

*Copy sent to Committee
on Revenue Sharing
9/11/73 dl*

In City Council,

Sept. 10, 1973

*9/10/73
Referred to the
Committee on Revenue
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