



City of Cambridge

6.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1975

Councillor Clinton

WHEREAS:

The property tax is a regressive tax that falls heaviest on those who can afford it least, small homeowners and tenants,

WHEREAS:

The \$33 tax rate increase has increased this unfair burden,

WHEREAS:

The projected 100% valuation will be a further substantial increase in this burden on small homeowners and tenants,

WHEREAS:

Harvard and MIT's development plans have led to an alarming increase in the amount of tax exempt land, this land being among the city's most valuable, which totalled 25% of the city's land in 1972,

WHEREAS:

Harvard and MIT's "in lieu of taxes" payments are less than 4% of what they should pay on their tax exempt land, which taxes if paid would reduce the tax rate approximately \$60.00,

WHEREAS:

Harvard and MIT are two of the wealthiest universities in the country,

WHEREAS:

Harvard and MIT make full use of Cambridge services, serving largely non-Cambridge people at the expense of Cambridge residents,

WHEREAS:

Many lifelong residents have been driven out and may be driven out by the soaring rents and taxes, caused in large part by the presence of the universities, therefore be it

RESOLVED:

That the City Council direct the City Manager to institute proceedings to have legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court to make taxation of the universities mandatory,

RESOLVED:

That the Council direct the Assessor to demand that the universities pay substantial increases in their "in lieu of taxes" payments,



City of Cambridge

6.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 3, 1975

RESOLVED:

That the Council direct the Manager to lobby Cambridge legislators to vote for the circuit breaker law presently under consideration by the Great and General Court, Senate Bill #1474.

RESOLVED:

That the Council direct the Assessor to publish suggested guidelines for the 100% valuation reassessment,

RESOLVED:

That the Council direct the Assessor to publish guidelines for use of the "needy persons" exemption, these guidelines to reflect a commitment to ease the burden on small homeowners,

RESOLVED:

That the Council direct the Manager to investigate the possibility of taxing intangible property,

RESOLVED:

That the Council call a public hearing within 30-45 days to hear reports from the Assessor and the City Manager on progress towards these goals.

City Council

March 3, 1975

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 7 members*Paul E. Leahy*

City Clerk



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Paul E. Leahy
City Clerk

Order # 6 85

C. Clinton re: property tax.

In City Council,

March 3, 1975

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