



City of Cambridge

O-12.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 18, 1999

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR BORN

- WHEREAS: The City Council has previously passed many resolutions of concern and support for other Cambridge tenants who were at risk of being displaced during this continuing affordable housing crisis; and
- WHEREAS: The City Council on February 1, 1999 passed Resolution #44 declaring a housing emergency in the acute shortage of affordable housing in the City of Cambridge; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council urge the Cambridge Housing Authority to reconsider its decision not to renew the Desir family's Section 8 and that CHA, all the City's non profits, and all the City's affordable housing programs do everything possible as quickly as possible to help the Desir family secure affordable housing so that they can remain in Cambridge; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Daniel Wuenschel, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, 675 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139; Just A Start Corp.; Homeowner's Rehab Inc., and to the list of affordable rental housing developments in Cambridge on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 18, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

✓ O 12 Triantafyllou + KR

October 14 1999

To: Mayor Duchay and the Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk Margaret Drury
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Re: Consent Order submission on behalf of Claude and Marie Desir and their family.
From the Campaign to Save 2000 Homes and the Cambridge Eviction Free Zone.

Dear Mayor Duchay and City Council Members,

We are writing on behalf of Claude and Marie Desir and their three daughters who were made homeless by being forcibly evicted from their home of 10 years in Huron Towers on August 10, 1999. They are now temporarily crowded in with another family and without a home of their own. Their landlord, First Realty Management Corp., says they were evicted because this family of 5, with an autistic child, violated their lease by "making too much noise." The Desirs, along with many of their neighbors, deny this charge. They say their eviction was part of a pattern of intimidation by building management against their disabled daughter and of discrimination by the owner against people of color. Their eviction was scheduled to take place on Monday, August 9th. CHA asked the landlord to postpone the eviction for two days until their Section 8 case could be heard on August 11. Instead, the constable arrived at the Desirs' apartment on Tuesday the 10th. When they refused to leave their home, Claude and Marie were arrested by Cambridge police, taken with their 7-year-old autistic daughter to the station, and charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. The Desirs got to the point of eviction because of legal advice, which recommended they accept the eviction in exchange for 8 months to find a new home. Unfortunately, when they finally did find a new home, they found that their agreeing to the eviction cost them their Section 8 voucher, giving them no way to afford a new apartment. Now the charges of trespassing and resisting arrest, which they are fighting in court, has virtually guaranteed that their Section 8 will not be renewed.

We ask the City Council to pass the following Resolution of concern and support:

WHEREAS: The City Council has previously passed many resolutions of concern and support for Cambridge tenants who were at risk of being displaced during this continuing affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS: The City Council on February 1, 1999 passed Resolution 44 declaring a housing emergency in the acute shortage of affordable housing in the City of Cambridge; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council urge the Cambridge Housing Authority to reconsider its decision not to renew the Desir family's Section 8 and that CHA, all the city's non profits, and all the city's affordable housing programs do everything possible as quickly as possible to help the Desir family secure affordable housing so that they can remain in Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council requests that the City Clerk send a copy of this resolution to: Daniel Wuenschel, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, 675 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139; Just A Start Corp., Homeowner's Rehab Inc., and to the list of affordable rental housing developments in Cambridge.

Sincerely, *Bill Marcotte*

*for the Campaign 2000 Homes
and the Eviction Free Zone*



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RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Daniel Wuenschel, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, 675 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139; Just A Start Corp.; Homeowner's Rehab Inc., and to the list of affordable rental housing developments in Cambridge on behalf of the entire City Council.

Order #12

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Councillors Triantafillou and Reeves
re: urge the Cambridge Housing Authority
to reconsider its decision regarding
the Desir family.

In City Council October 18, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED