

May 13, 1974

James L. Sullivan
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We are alarmed that you have failed to include representatives from community groups in your efforts to bring together a "top-level" committee "on all sides" concerning the proposed Kennedy Library/Museum. The Harvard Square Development Task Force does not represent working class neighborhood residents of Riverside and Cambridgeport. Nor does it represent the entire spectrum of public opinion relative to the Kennedy Complex as proposed.

We share your view that meaningful dialogue has not been established with decision-making members of the Kennedy Library Corporation. We met with Senator Kennedy to emphasize this point, apparently to no avail. In addition, RCCC refused to endorse the Task Force because it failed to include Riverside and Cambridgeport residents from the beginning and then, under pressure, only half-heartedly. The buck will never stop being passed until all groups are included in the decision-making process. The organization you suggest can only be effective as an information exchange not a decision-making body. Cambridge has evolved too far to exclude citizen groups that have a proven record of constructive compromise.

We all want a fitting memorial to the late President. Such a memorial must symbolize integrity at its highest level--both in final product and in process. To accomplish less is to have forfeited the ideals of President Kennedy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Clem".

David Clem, President of RCCC

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City Manager
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Dear Mr. Sullivan:

RCCC (Riverside-Cambridgeport Community Corporation) strongly supports the acquisition of the Riverside Press site for recreational purposes. Residents of Riverside and Cambridgeport deserve permanent access to the Charles River, a right rapidly being denied by excessive speculative and development pressures generated by the universities and outside investors. Open space on the river can never be reclaimed once high rises set their concrete roots; we must act decisively now to preserve a vital part of our urban ecology.

RCCC believes in development--development that is balanced and initiated in a framework of mutual benefit for all parties affected. We demonstrated our ability to work constructively through the creation of 808 Memorial Drive, a project that should serve as a model for future activity in Cambridge. In turn, we took our "profits" and recycled them into the neighborhood through the development of River/Port Rehab, the first low and moderate income turnkey condominiums in the City. RCCC believes in conserving what we have now by rehabilitating neighborhood structures for neighborhood residents.

Our housing activity falls within a balanced plan for our two neighborhoods. This plan calls for new construction, rehabilitation, parks, open space, commercial areas, and sound transportation goals. That is why Riverside Press is so important to our neighborhoods as open space.

We are doing our share to make Cambridge a better place to live. Help us make neighborhoods work for people not for profits.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Clem".

David Clem, President of RCCC

May 12-74
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Manager
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