



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

April 23, 1999

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Bob Bersani, Inspectional Services

Subject: Council Order #030, dated 4/12/99 RE: REPORT ON REIMBURSEMENT OF COST TO THE CITY OF HIRING PRIVATE ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS TO ASSESS THE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AT THE MASS FOUNDRY BUILDING

As detailed in my report to the Council in response to Council Order #039 of 3/15/99, cracks and apparent settlement were observed in the Mass Foundry Building during the construction of a support wall associated with the construction of the adjacent parking garage on Erie Street. For reasons of public safety, a "stop work order" was issued pending resolution of the issues which were technical in nature involving both structural and geotechnical engineering disciplines. The developer retained council and appealed the "stop work order" to the State Board of Appeals. The Foundry also retained council and technical consultants to protect their interests. The "stop work order" on the project was in effect for a period of 5 ½ months.

Given this set of circumstances and the need to protect the interests of the City as well as to insure the interests of both parties were fairly considered, I felt it prudent to retain a consultant to advise me on technical matters concerning the basis of and defense of the "stop work order" before the State Board and to assist me in the review of technical proposals related to these matters submitted by the developer's consultants.

As the purpose of the building permit fee is to offset the cost of administering a particular project, I believe that in the situation where certain technical expertise is not resident in the ISD staff and considered needed to properly administer the provisions of the Building Code, then the funding for that assistance is properly that of the City.

Very truly yours,

R. R. Bersani

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 3, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-78, regarding a report on reimbursement of cost to the City for hiring private engineering consultants to assess the structural damage at the Mass Foundry Building, received from Inspectional Services Commissioner Robert Bersani.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #5

3165

Relative to AW Rpt. #99-78,
regarding a report on
reimbursement of cost of the
City for hiring private engineering
consultants to assess the structural
damage at the Mass Foundry Building.

In City Council May 3, 1999

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