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1994 FEB 7 JOHN R. MOOT

44 Coolidge Hill Road
Cambridge, MA 02138

February 3, 1994

Memorandum to: Mayor Kenneth Reeves, Vice Mayor Sheila Russell, Councillors Kathy Born, Katherine Triantafillou, Frank Duehay, Jonathan Myers, Michael Sullivan, Timothy Toomey, William Walsh.

Subject: Proposed Residency Requirement on Construction Projects

The requirement to employ a certain percentage of Cambridge residents on municipal construction projects is not in the best interests of the taxpayers of Cambridge, nor, in the long term, the construction workers who live in Cambridge. The cost of construction will be higher, and Cambridge tradesmen will be excluded from construction jobs in other parts of metropolitan Boston as other communities adopt similar regulations.

Cambridge is less than 1% of the metropolitan area with less than 3% of the population. I do not believe that it is either wise or fair to build walls around our city to reduce the freedom of workers to accept employment where the opportunity to utilize their skills are greatest.

The tradesman living in Cambridge should not be asked to endanger his freedom to work in other towns in order to gain preferential treatment on the currently planned municipal building boom in Cambridge. The situation is likely to change in a few years with most of the public construction work being done outside of Cambridge. In the long term if not the present, there will be more work done outside of Cambridge than inside.

The proposed residency restrictions will increase construction costs. In bidding a job, the contractor must include in his/her bid an substantial allowance for the unknown cost of meeting the quota for residents. The contractor will not know what Cambridge workers with what skills will be available when the job will start if he wins the contract. He will be unable to bid on the basis of bringing in the entire efficient team that he has developed over time on a variety of jobs.

A construction crew is a team, not just a collection of skilled workers. No different than an athletic team, the construction company is a group of

skilled players who have learned to coordinate their efforts well, and who have developed a strong team spirit. The article in the Chronicle on Mr. Marino described the efforts he has made to build a strong construction team with spirit. With this finely tuned team, Marino was able to complete the \$12 million job to cover the Payson Park Reservoir on time and under budget, at a considerable saving to Cambridge residents.

On the surface the residency requirement sounds good, but it is not. It will cost the taxpayers money and the tradesmen considerable freedom.

Sincerely,



John R. Moot

Consent Communication #3

S-55

Comm. received from John Moot, 44 Coolidge Hill Road
re: the proposed residency requirement on construction
projects.

In City Council February 14, 1994

Placed on file