



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

October 21, 1998

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Bob Bersani, Inspectional Services

RE: City Council Calendar Item #22 dtd. 9/29/98; RE: Report on Procedures for Correcting Safety Hazards of Buildings.

This Council Order refers to recent incidents concerning a storm window falling from a building at Oxford Street and concrete debris falling from the Harvard Coop annex at Bow Street and requests information on fines assessed to the owners and corrective actions taken as well as procedures in place to insure similar incidents do not happen again.

Detailed reports on these two incidents were submitted in response to Council Orders #040 of 7/27/98 and #138 of 9/14/98. In summary, in both cases the owners responded immediately and took appropriate action. In the Oxford Street case, a comprehensive survey was taken of all windows in the building and it was determined that all windows in the building were secure. In the Bow Street case, the owner had scaffolding erected to protect the public and made repairs to the building. The Courts have the authority to assess fines under the Building Code. There were no complaints filed with the Court in these cases.

The State Building Code requires the building owner to maintain their buildings in a safe condition. Procedures in place to help prevent incidents such as these from occurring include the following:

- a. The State Building Code requires periodic inspections and the issuance of Certificates of Inspection (CIs) for buildings in the following categories; assembly (theaters, restaurants, churches, etc.), educational (through the 12th grade), institutional (hospitals, nursing homes, day care, etc.), and residential (hotels, multi families, group residences, etc). ISD conducts these inspections in all these categories except for multi-family (3 or more units) structures. ISD is presently developing a plan for multi family inspections for consideration in the next budget cycle.
- b. ISD responds immediately to complaints from interested citizens and others concerning building safety issues. Action is then taken in accordance with the provisions of the State Building Code or Sanitary Code as appropriate.

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- c. ISD inspectors, and other City employees as well, while carrying out their normal duties are on the alert for unsafe conditions. When such conditions are noted appropriate referrals are made and corrective actions taken.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. R. Bersani".

R. R. Bersani



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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8.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

November 2, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11, regarding a report on procedures for correcting safety hazards of buildings, received from Inspectional Services Commissioner Robert Bersani.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #8

6845

Relative to AW #11 regarding
a report on procedures for
correcting safety hazards of
buildings.

In City Council November 2, 1998

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