

Ward 5 Democratic City Committee

November 15, 1976

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Councillors,

We would like to record our strong opposition to plans by Shelter, Inc., to locate an overnight home for alcoholics at 30 Pearl St., Cambridge, because the location of this facility is plainly in a residential neighborhood and will create a series of critically negative impacts on the entire resident population of the area, especially to children and the elderly.

The proposed facility lies directly in the path traversed by large numbers of school-aged children who use the newly opened branch library at Pearl and Franklin St., directly across the street. This part of Pearl St. is a major pedestrian link for children walking to Webster and Blessed Sacrament Schools as well as the children who attended the Greek school and walk home at 5:45 p.m.

Large numbers of elderly pass by the site enroute to Central Square shopping and transportation. With occupancy of the new elderly tower across the street, increased numbers of elderly will also pass by the site on their way to the many churches in the neighborhood.

We would like to point out that the immediate area is presently host to a large number of community residences, including 2 Dare Houses, Walker House, and Well-Met House. In addition there are many lodging houses which serve a transient population. Despite the severe oversaturation of the neighborhood with these and other institutions, residents of the neighborhood continue to struggle to preserve and improve the fabric of life of this area. The additional impact of the proposed home on what is presently a very delicate balance would unquestionably demoralize the residents and cause rapid disintegration of the neighborhood stability.

We earnestly request that prompt action on your part to prevent the proposed facility from opening in this clearly inappropriate location.

Sincerely yours,



Dominic H. Christafaro, Jr.
Chairman, Ward 5 Dem. City Committee

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