

67 Highland Avenue, Apartment 2
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
March 5, 1975

City Council
City of Cambridge

SUBJECT (for listing): Letter of Robert La Tremouille conveying copy of letter, Mayor Kevin White, which expresses White's unequivocal opposition to the Allston parking site for the Kennedy Museum

At the March 3, 1975 council meeting Councilor Russel conscientiously submitted a motion intended to unite the council behind saving those portions of the Kennedy Library Complex other than the museum. The motion was tabled when other councilors expressed opposition to settling for less than the entire complex.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter containing information which has not been adequately publicized and which, in my opinion, destroys any possibility of the museum portion of the complex being located in Harvard Square. The letter is from Mayor Kevin White of Boston to a community group in Allston. It expresses the mayor's final, unequivocal opposition to use of the Western Avenue turnpike site as peripheral parking for the Kennedy Museum. This governmental position, in response to Allston community pressure, makes the Kennedy Museum impossible in Harvard Square. It would appear that the Kennedy Corporation conceded defeat almost immediately after they received notification of this definitive position.

I would suggest that the council recognize the wisdom of this decision and unite behind Councilor Russel's motion with the resolve amended to make that resolve unambiguous.

This communication will be given to the City Clerk with sufficient copies for each councilor's March 10 meeting package. My copy of the enclosed letter was received from the Harvard Square Development Task Force. I am certain all councilors will satisfy themselves as to its accuracy prior to the March 10 meeting.

Sincerely,


Robert J. La Tremouille

cc: Harvard Square Development Task Force
Local newspapers



KEVIN H. WHITE
MAYOR

CITY OF BOSTON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, BOSTON

Who has seen?

source: Har-Ad T F

January 24, 1975

Joseph M. Smith, Chairman
Allston Civic Association
70 Athol Street
Allston, Massachusetts 02134

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your kind invitation to appear before the emergency meeting of the Allston Civic Association. A prior commitment prevents me from testifying in person, but I have asked Allston Little City Hall Manager Deane Haskell to make the following statement on my behalf:

It is the policy of the City of Boston that this city will not be used as a dumping ground for the auxiliary facilities for any development which will benefit the City of Cambridge or any other municipality outside of Boston. Boston has for too long provided its resources to other communities without receiving just compensation for its efforts. This situation will no longer be allowed to exist.

It is also my understanding that the land in question for the parking area may be a prime site for future development. Given that Harvard University currently has plans to build housing directly across the street, and that the parcel of land adjacent to the parking site may soon be available for development, it seems to me that the City of Boston does not want to put the property in question into permanent use until all possible alternatives for the site have been explored and the best possible use of the land determined.

Consequently, I am opposed to using the Allston site for spillover parking for the Kennedy Memorial Library.

In addition to the foregoing, my staff has also indicated that there may be any number of other problems with the environmental impact statement. We have not yet completed our analysis of that document, but the City will be filing a formal statement with the General Services Administration within the time allotted. Our preliminary analysis does indicate that the proposed site is not adequate for the Library/Museum complex.

Statement of Mayor White to Allston Civic Association: 1/24/75

I apologize again for not being able to appear in person, and I thank you for giving Deane Haskell this opportunity to present my position. Please be assured that I as Mayor will continue to defend Allston/Brighton and other Boston neighborhoods against development proposals which are not in the best interest of these neighborhoods and the City of Boston.

Sincerely,



Kevin H. White
Mayor

KHW/mm

Comm. from Robert LaTremouille transmitting a letter from Mayor Kevin White recording opposition to the Allston parking site for the Kennedy Museum.

In City Council,

March 10, 1975

3/10/75
Placed on File -