

C. Myers

Whereas: Channel 5 recently ran a three part series on rent control in Cambridge, called Rent Control No Control;

Whereas: this series fell short in that it did not show the complete picture of rent control in Cambridge, by depicting only the so called "wealthy tenants" living in rent controlled apartments, and not showing any examples of the many many people living in rent controlled apartments who truly need this housing and in this way the series was a disservice to the people of Cambridge;

Whereas this City Council is committed to providing affordable housing for low and moderate income people and rent control is ~~on~~ substantially provides this housing; Whereas this series was also flawed by focusing its attention on the tenants who live in the apartments and not the landlords who rent out the apartments.

Whereas in the name of fairness it must be taken into account that it is the property owner who decides who lives in rent controlled apartments, and a therefore the responsibility for who lives in rent controlled apartments must be ~~assumed~~ ^{presumed} to be the property owners

Whereas to the extent that landlords have indicated a preference to rent to higher income tenants rather than those of lesser means indicates that potentially discriminatory practices are occurring against lower income people

Whereas this City Council is opposed to any and all forms of discrimination, and is ~~also~~ ^{further} committed to finding ways to maximize the accessibility of rent controlled apartments to low and moderate income people, in ways that are constitutional and fair to landlords and tenants;

Therefore be it resolved that the City Council refer this matter to the Rent Control committee of the City Council for the purposes of conducting a full hearing on the issue of the access of low and moderate income people to rent controlled housing, and that some of the major landlords in the city be invited to discuss the accessibility of their units to low and moderate income people, and ways that this can be encouraged. And that all relevant relevant department heads are requested through the City Manager to be present at said hearing.

And be it further resolved that the Cambridge City Council call on Channel 5 to allow equal time to a segment which depicts a more balanced view of rent control in Cambridge, including interviews with some of the many tenants who could not remain in Cambridge without living in a rent controlled apartment.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Editorial and News Director of Channel 5.

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council _____ 199

Sul. # 7

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Mr. Ed Cyr	✓				
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓				
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers	✓				
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves	✓				
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell		✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓			
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	✓				
Mr. William H. Walsh		✓			
Mayor Alice K. Wolf			✓		

5

3

1



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 15, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: Plaudits are due to WCVT-TV Channel 5 for its recent series, "RENT CONTROL - NO CONTROL", an insightful exploration and expose by investigative reporter Jorge Quiroga of the use and abuse of the Rent Control System in Cambridge by the haves to the detriment of the have-nots; and

WHEREAS: Central to this report was confirmation of the truth which many want to ignore and neither hear nor acknowledge, i.e., 30% of rent controlled units in Cambridge are utilized by people above the low and moderate income level. These "wealthy squatters", by occupying rent-controlled units, bar low and moderate income people from access to housing units which are under rent control for the precise purpose of providing the latter affordable housing; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager arrange an emergency meeting as soon as possible with Housing Providers, appropriate representatives from Community Development Department and Rent Control Board in attendance for the purpose of finding a way to assure that, henceforth into the future, occupancy of rent-controlled units will be limited to people of low and moderate income; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this City Council with a date and time for this meeting within one week.

C. Myers
Moved to substitute - See attached
motion prevailed
6-3-0

C. Myers

Whereas: Channel 5 recently ran a three part series on rent control in Cambridge, called Rent Control No Control;

Whereas: this series fell short in that it did not show the complete picture of rent control in Cambridge, by depicting only the so called "wealthy tenants" living in rent controlled apartments, and not showing any examples of the many many people living in rent controlled apartments who truly need this housing and in this way the series was a disservice to the people of Cambridge;

Whereas this City Council is committed to providing affordable housing for low and moderate income people and rent control is ~~on~~ substantially provides this housing;

Whereas this series was also flawed by focusing its attention on the tenants who live in the apartments and not the landlords who rent out the apartments.

Whereas in the name of fairness it must be taken into account that it is the property owner who decides who lives in rent controlled apartments, and a therefore the responsibility for who lives in rent controlled apartments must be ~~assumed~~ ^{presumed} to be the property owners

Whereas to the extent that landlords have indicated a preference to rent to higher income tenants rather than those of lesser means indicates that potentially discriminatory practices are occurring against lower income people

Whereas this City Council is opposed to any and all forms of discrimination, and is ~~also~~ committed to finding ways to maximize the accessibility of rent controlled apartments to low and moderate income people, in ways that are constitutional and fair to landlords and tenants;

Therefore be it resolved that the City Council refer this matter to the Rent Control committee of the City Council for the purposes of conducting a full hearing on the issue of the access of low and moderate income people to rent controlled housing, and that some of the major landlords in the city be invited to discuss the accessibility of their units to low and moderate income people, and ways that this can be encouraged. And that all relevant relevant department heads are requested through the City Manager to be present at said hearing.

And be it further resolved that the Cambridge City Council call on Channel 5 to allow equal time to a segment which depicts a more balanced view of rent control in Cambridge, including interviews with some of the many tenants who could not remain in Cambridge without living in a rent controlled apartment.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Editorial and News Director of Channel 5.

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council Dec. 15 1990

C. Myers - Motion to Substitute Order # 7 with Motion 1

(C. Myers)

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
Mr. Ed Cyr	✓				
Mr. Francis H. Duehay	✓				
Mr. Jonathan S. Myers	✓				
Mr. Kenneth E. Reeves	✓				
Mrs. Sheila T. Russell		✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan		✓			
Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	✓				
Mr. William H. Walsh		✓			
Mayor Alice K. Wolf	✓				

6

3

C. Myers

Moved
To
Substitute by

Whereas: Channel 5 recently ran a three part series on rent control in Cambridge, called Rent Control No Control; and

Recall.
6-3-0-0.

7.

Whereas: this series fell short in that it did not show the complete picture of rent control in Cambridge, by depicting only the so called "wealthy tenants" living in rent controlled apartments, and not showing any examples of the many many people living in rent controlled apartments who truly need this housing and in this way the series was a disservice to the people of Cambridge; and

Whereas this City Council is committed to providing affordable housing for low and moderate income people and rent control is not substantially providing this housing; and

Whereas this series was also flawed by focusing its attention on the tenants who live in the apartments and not the landlords who rent out the apartments; and

Whereas; in the name of fairness it must be taken into account that it is the property owner who decides who lives in rent controlled apartments, and a therefore the responsibility for who lives in rent controlled apartments must be ~~assumed~~ ^{presumed} to be the property owners; and

Whereas; to the extent that landlords have indicated a preference to rent to higher income tenants rather than those of lesser means indicates that potentially discriminatory practices are occurring against lower income people; and

Whereas; this City Council is opposed to any and all forms of discrimination, and is ~~also~~ ^{also} committed to finding ways to maximize the accessibility of rent controlled apartments to low and moderate income people, in ways that are constitutional and fair to landlords and tenants; No 3

Therefore be it ~~Resolved~~ ^{Resolved} that the City Council refer this matter to the Rent Control committee of the City Council for the purposes of conducting a full hearing on the issue of the access of low and moderate income people to rent controlled housing, and that some of the major landlords in the city be invited to discuss the accessibility of their units to low and moderate income people, and ways that this can be encouraged. And that all relevant relevant department heads are requested through the City Manager to be present at said hearing.

And be it further ~~Resolved~~ ^{Resolved} that the Cambridge City Council call on Channel 5 to allow equal time to a segment which depicts a more balanced view of rent control in Cambridge, including interviews with some of the many tenants who could not remain in Cambridge without living in a rent controlled apartment.

And be it further ~~Resolved~~ ^{Resolved} that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Editorial and News Director of Channel 5.

Recall
5-3-1-0.



City of Cambridge

7

IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

October 15, 1990

WHEREAS: Plaudits are due to WCVB-TV Channel 5 for its recent series, " RENT CONTROL - NO CONTROL " , an insightful exploration and expose by investigative reporter Jorge Quiroga of the use and abuse of the Rent Control System in Cambridge by the haves to the detriment of the have-nots; and

WHEREAS: Central to this report was confirmation of the truth which many want to ignore and neither hear nor acknowledge, i.e., 30% of rent controlled units in Cambridge are utilized by people above the low and moderate income level. These " wealthy squatters ", by occupying rent-controlled units, bar low and moderate income people from access to housing units which are under rent control for the precise purpose of providing the latter affordable housing; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager arrange an emergency meeting as soon as possible with Housing Providers, appropriate representatives from Community Development Department and Rent Control Board in attendance for the purpose of finding a way to assure that, henceforth into the future, occupancy of rent-controlled units will be limited to people of low and moderate income; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this Council with a date and time for this meeting within one week.



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL
October 15, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

- WHEREAS: Plaudits are due to WCVT-TV Channel 5 for its recent series, **"RENT CONTROL - NO CONTROL"**, an insightful exploration and expose by investigative reporter Jorge Quiroga of the use and abuse of the Rent Control System in Cambridge by the haves to the detriment of the have-nots; and
- WHEREAS: Central to this report was confirmation of the truth which many want to ignore and neither hear nor acknowledge, i.e., 30% of rent controlled units in Cambridge are utilized by people above the low and moderate income level. These "wealthy squatters", by occupying rent-controlled units, bar low and moderate income people from access to housing units which are under rent control for the precise purpose of providing the latter affordable housing; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager arrange an emergency meeting as soon as possible with Housing Providers, appropriate representatives from Community Development Department and Rent Control Board in attendance for the purpose of finding a way to assure that, henceforth into the future, occupancy of rent-controlled units will be limited to people of low and moderate income; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this City Council with a date and time for this meeting within one week.

SEE SUBSTITUTED ORDER



City of Cambridge

SUBSTITUTED ORDER

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 15, 1990

COUNCILLOR MYERS

- WHEREAS: Channel 5 recently ran a three part series on rent control in Cambridge, called Rent Control No Control; and
- WHEREAS: This series fell short in that it did not show the complete picture of rent control in Cambridge by depicting only the so called "wealthy tenants" living in rent controlled apartments, and not showing any examples of the many many people living in rent controlled apartments who truly need this housing and in this way the series was a disservice to the people of Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS: This City Council is committed to providing affordable housing for low and moderate income people and rent control substantially provides this housing; and
- WHEREAS: This Channel 5 series was also flawed by focusing its attention on the tenants who live in the apartments and not the landlords who rent out the apartments; and
- WHEREAS: In the name of fairness it must be taken into account that it is the property owner who decides who lives in rent controlled apartments and therefore the responsibility for who lives in rent controlled apartments must be presumed to be the property owners; and
- WHEREAS: To the extent that landlords have indicated a preference to rent to higher income tenants rather than those of lesser means indicates that potentially discriminatory practices are occurring against lower income people; and
- WHEREAS: This City Council is opposed to any and all forms of discrimination, and is further committed to finding ways to maximize the accessibility of rent controlled apartments to low and moderate income people, in ways that are constitutional and fair to landlords and tenants; now therefore be it

- RESOLVED: That the City Council refer this matter to the Rent Control Committee of the City Council for the purposes of conducting a full hearing on the issue of the access of low and moderate income people to rent controlled housing, and that some of the major landlords in the city be invited to discuss the accessibility of their units to low and moderate income people, and ways that this can be encouraged. And that all relevant department heads are requested through the City Manager to be present at said hearing; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council call on Channel 5 to allow equal time to a segment which depicts a more balanced view of rent control in Cambridge, including interviews with some of the many tenants who could not remain in Cambridge without living in a rent controlled apartment; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Editorial and News Director of Channel 5.

In City Council October 15, 1990.

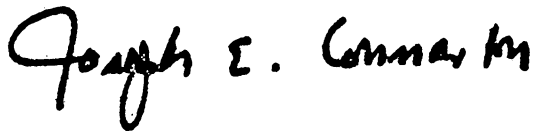
Adopted by a yea and nay vote:-

Yeas 5; Nays 3; Absent 1.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 15, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

- WHEREAS: Plaudits are due to WCVT-TV Channel 5 for its recent series, **"RENT CONTROL - NO CONTROL"**, an insightful exploration and expose by investigative reporter Jorge Quiroga of the use and abuse of the Rent Control System in Cambridge by the haves to the detriment of the have-nots; and
- WHEREAS: Central to this report was confirmation of the truth which many want to ignore and neither hear nor acknowledge, i.e., 30% of rent controlled units in Cambridge are utilized by people above the low and moderate income level. These "wealthy squatters", by occupying rent-controlled units, bar low and moderate income people from access to housing units which are under rent control for the precise purpose of providing the latter affordable housing; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager arrange an emergency meeting as soon as possible with Housing Providers, appropriate representatives from Community Development Department and Rent Control Board in attendance for the purpose of finding a way to assure that, henceforth into the future, occupancy of rent-controlled units will be limited to people of low and moderate income; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this City Council with a date and time for this meeting within one week.

Order # 7

5-973

Councillor Walsh re: report on Rent
Control in Cambridge.

In City Council,

October 15, 1990

*Substituted order
Adopted*

5-3-1