



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

LAW DEPARTMENT

RUSSELL B. HIGLEY
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EDWARD A. CUNNINGHAM
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LEGAL COUNSEL

CHARLES A. WATSON
LEGISLATIVE AGENT

June 6, 1978

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

I am in receipt of your request for an opinion concerning the scope and effect of a "Charter Right," as that term is used in Rule 19 of the Rules of the City Council.

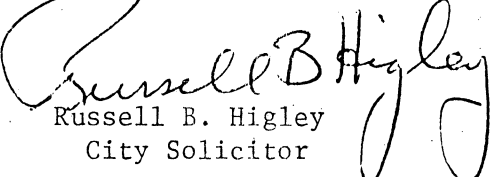
A "Charter Right" is actually an Objection to the Consideration of a Question. The purpose of the "Charter Right" is to enable the Council to avoid a particular main motion altogether when it believes it would be strongly undesirable for the motion to even come before Council.

According to Robert's Rules of Order, Section 26, a "Charter Right" or "Objection to the Consideration of a Question" is not debatable or amendable; this rule applies not only to the motion itself but to the underlying question as well.

It is my opinion, therefore, that a "Charter Right" acts to automatically terminate all debate on the underlying issue before the Council.

If you have further questions in this regard, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


Russell B. Higley
City Solicitor

RBH:cag



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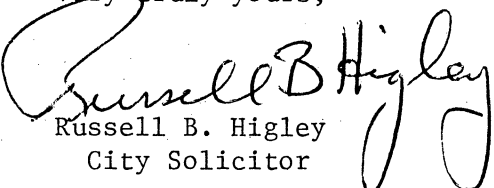
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