

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 1, 1993

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #15 regarding the recent distribution of a neo-Nazi newspaper, please be advised that the Police Department and the Human Rights Commission have investigated the matter and report the following:

The Human Rights Commission reports that it has met with Sally Greenberg of the Anti-Defamation League, and Detective Billy Philips of the Police Department who was investigating the matter. In addition the Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, Jan Platner, called Amy Close, director of Temple Beth Shalom, to see if any of the congregation had contacted her about this (they had not), and if she was aware of any other incidents in the City (she was not).

On December 4, 1992, Ms. Platner called Chip Berlet of Political Research Associates, a Cambridge-based non-profit which tracks right-wing activity throughout the country. Platner was advised by Berlet that the paper in question was put out by a one-person operation in Michigan, and that a number of skinhead, neo-Nazi and other ultra-right groups distribute it. The paper was stamped with the emblem for the "SS Action Group," a skinhead organization that is small but known to be fairly violent. Although there appears to be no organized activity in this area right now, it is possible that individuals affiliated with this group may be planning to recruit in the area at some point.

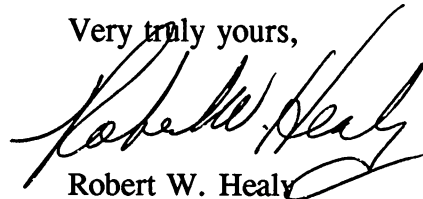
After this conversation, Ms. Platner met with Cathy Hoffman of the Peace Commission. Ms. Hoffman called Bill McLaurin of the School Department to find out if any of these materials have turned up in the schools (to his knowledge, they have not), and to alert him to that possibility.

According to the Police Department, no one actually filed a complaint with the Police, nor, according to Ms. Platner, did anyone who actually received the paper call the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Platner called Janet Murray, who had received the paper on her door step. Ms. Murray had spoken to several neighbors on Cottage and Pearl Streets who also received it on their door steps or in their mail slots; she does not know of any similar incidents before or since.

Based on these reports, it appears that there have been no other related incidents, and no clue as to who was distributing the paper. It also appears that, reprehensible as this activity may be, nothing was done in this instance that was illegal.

Both the Human Rights Commission and the Police Department continue to monitor this situation. I will keep you apprised of the progress.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Consent Agenda # 4 5-68

Awaiting Report Item Number 15 regarding
the recent distribution of a neo-Nazi
newspaper.

*See F-1992 # 558 for
order.*

In City Council,

February 1, 1993

Placed on file