



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS

WATER DEPARTMENT
250 FRESH POND PARKWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

John J. Cusack, Jr.
Superintendent

617-498-9070

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
FROM: *JJC* John J. Cusack, Jr., Superintendent
DATE: *JJC* March 15, 1989
SUBJECT: COUNCIL ORDER #25 - (01/09/89): PROBLEM WITH
DIRTY WATER @ LINCOLN WAY AND SHERIDAN STREET

In June of 1988, a building contractor broke the 16-inch water transmission main at the intersection of Raymond St. and Richdale Ave. Due to the extent of the damage, this main could not be restored to full service immediately and valves had to be left partially closed. Repair materials were purchased and the line was restored to full service in late September. During the interim, the Water Department received several complaints about discolored water with a musty odor. This condition was caused by poor circulation of water in the area because of the partially closed valves. After the repairs were completed and all valves opened, the complaints about water quality stopped.

Several months later, the Water Department received additional complaints about poor water quality in a Cambridge Housing Authority apartment building at Sheridan St. and Lincoln Way. Pursuant to this complaint, the Water Department scheduled an inspection tour of several buildings at this location on Feb. 10th to investigate the plumbing and heating systems. Water samples were taken from several apartments. All samples of water were clear, odorless and tasteless.

Summary

The original series of complaints were resolved when the 16-inch main was restored to full service. The subsequent complaints about water quality at Lincoln Way and Sheridan Street were not substantiated during the Feb. 10th on-site inspection visit, which was attended by Water Department technical staff, City Plumbing Inspector George Murphy, and Cambridge Housing Authority Maintenance personnel.

JJC/mp



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

March 20, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 23 regarding the problem of dirty water at Lincoln Way and Sheridan Street, I submit the attached report from the Water Department.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 4 *S-174*

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 23 on the
problem of dirty water at Lincoln Way & Sheri-
dan St.

In City Council,

March 20, 1989

3-20-89

Placed on File