



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

494-4100 CAMBRIDGE MA.

40 THORNDIKE STREET
EAST CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

BILL SCHMIDT, Chairman
Cambridge
THOMAS J. LARKIN, Bedford
MICHAEL E. McLAUGHLIN, Lowell

January 22, 1987

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

The Commissioners are in receipt of your letter of January 13, 1987 extending an invitation to attend a hearing scheduled for Monday, January 26, 1987 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd floor of Cambridge City Hall relative to the closing of Otis Street between Second and Third Streets.

Commissioner Larkin and Commissioner Schmidt do plan to attend said meeting, and wish to again thank you for the invitation.

Sincerely,

Paul Blazar
County Administrator

PB/mq



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

January 13, 1987

Mr. Thomas Larkin
Chairman
Middlesex County Commissioners
Office of the County Commissioners
40 Thorndike Street
Cambridge, MA 02141

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please be advised that pursuant to your recent communication to the Cambridge City Council relative to the closing of Otis Street between Second and Third Streets, a hearing has been scheduled to which you and your fellow Commissioners are invited. The hearing will be held on Monday, January 26, 1987 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd floor of Cambridge City Hall.

The Council looks forward to discussing with the Commissioners concerns raised relative to the effects of said closing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Joseph E. Connarton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk.

JEC/mh



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40 THORNDIKE STREET
EAST CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

December 19, 1986

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Council Members:

As you know from our letter of July 24, 1985 (copy enclosed) the Board of Commissioners has had some concerns about the effects of closing Otis Street between Second and Third Streets. Though we feel that a park at that location will enhance and complement the many positive changes that are taking place in East Cambridge, we do still have some concerns about parking for our employees and those who must visit our buildings on business.

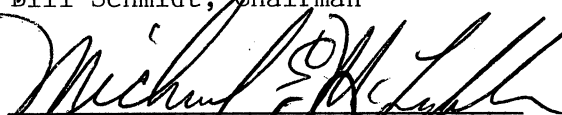
One of the effects of the conversion of Otis Street when it takes place, will be the loss of approximately seventy (70) parking spaces utilized, on a daily basis, by employees of the Probate Court, the Registry of Deeds, and the Superior Courthouse, both County and State.

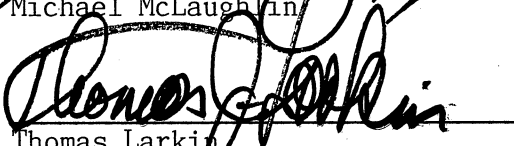
The County is concerned about the loss of these spaces - both for the convenience of our employees, and because of the demand it creates on the already overcrowded city streets. For this reason the Board is hopeful that the Council will delay any action on the Otis Street conversion until both new parking garages are open and fully functioning. It is also the hope of the Board that the Council will consider the allocation of additional spaces in the new garage to the County in order to offset the loss of the spaces presently utilized on Otis Street.

The Board appreciates the consideration of the City Council, and will be happy to attend a meeting of the Council, to further discuss this request.

Yours truly,


Bill Schmidt, Chairman


Michael McLaughlin


Thomas Larkin

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET _____ ☐
M.C.A.B. _____ ☐
TREAS. _____ ☐
DEPT. C. Alm. ☒

494-4100

THOMAS J. LARKIN, Chairman
Bedford
MICHAEL E. McLAUGHLIN, Lowell
BILL SCHMIDT, Newton

40 THORNDIKE STREET
EAST CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

July 24, 1985

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Middlesex County Commissioners would like to express their strong feelings as to the ramifications that would result from the proposal to convert the Otis Street block between Second and Third Streets into a park.

We are concerned that this change would have many serious and potentially dangerous consequences to the use and occupancy of the Registry of Deeds Building and the new Bulfinch Square Complex.

This conversion would seriously impair the functional capabilities of both of these facilities. Access to these buildings in case of fire would be restricted. The ability to adequately provide deliveries, rubbish pickup, and other building services would also be hampered by the restricted access.

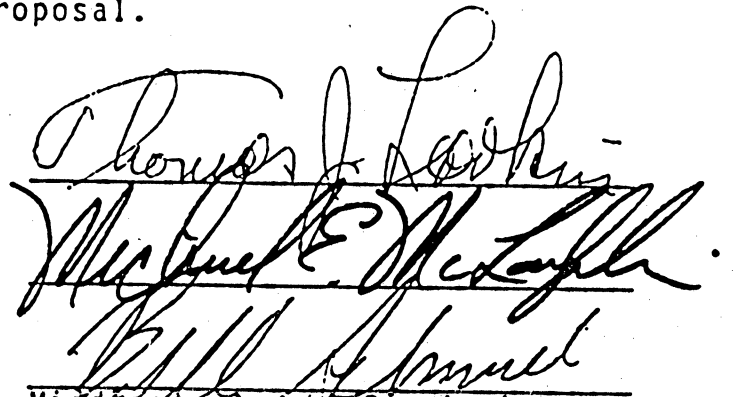
In addition, the already serious parking problem in this area would be exacerbated by the loss of even more parking spaces which are used daily by the Courthouse, and Registry of

July 24, 1985

Deeds, and Probate employees. Equally as important is the use of this area for parking by local residents at night and in emergencies. It should be noted that the Bulfinch development has already resulted in the loss of more than eighty parking spaces which were used by these same groups prior to construction.

As an alternative to a complete conversion to a park area, the County could make the steps to the Registry of Deeds Building and the adjacent open spaces available as a social or common area for public use. Otis Street could then be closed off temporarily without the serious effects of the permanent loss.

We respectfully request that the Cambridge City Council vote against the Otis Street proposal.


Middlesex County Commissioners

MCC:mq

Comm. from the Middlesex County Commissioners
expressing concern as to the effects on area
parking of closing Otis St. between Second &
Third St.'s.

*Letter sent to the County Commissioners
notifying them of hearing 1/13/87
(copy within)*

In City Council,

January 5, 1987

*Referred to City Manager
and*

Traffic Director

Hearing, Scheduled

1/26/87 @ 6 P.m.

*Copy sent to the City Manager Traffic
Director 1/17/87 wh*