



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
City Hall Annex Inman & Broadway

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From *KAS* Kathy A. Spiegelman, Assistant City Manager
for Community Development

Date 21 June 1984

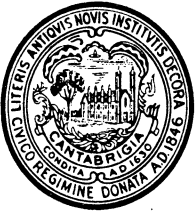
Subject Senate Bill 1302

Senate Bill 1302 is legislation introduced by Senator LaPresti designed to assist Unihab clear the title to land they own at the Ten Canal Park office site. The bill in no way eliminates or impedes public access to the riverfront or the Lechmere Canal.

In fact, as part of their agreement with the City to develop their site, Unihab donated over 2 acres of land to the City and the Metropolitan District Commission directly abutting the waterway, and including much of the actual land under the canal. This land donation enabled the City to rebuild the Lechmere Canal and build the public park surrounding it, including a direct pedestrian link under the canal bridge to the riverfront, thereby insuring permanent public access. The riverfront will also become more accessible to the public as a park is developed where the Cambridge Parkway now is, which is part of the overall development plan.

Senate Bill 1302 refers back to a state law passed in the 1800's to preserve the right of public access to land in tidal areas, namely for fishing. Since the Charles River basin, a tidal area, was landfilled and sold to private ownership, title insurance companies have required clarification of the 19th century Act each time properties on the landfill are redeveloped. This has commonly been accomplished through special legislation such as Senate Bill 1302. The state legislature recently passed a bill to clarify, in general, the situation involving old land fill areas that were in tidal basins. Based on that law, Unihab was able to obtain title insurance, and have, therefore, informed us that they no longer require passage of Senate Bill 1302.

KAS:ksb



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

June 25, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 24,
City Council Order of June 4, 1984, I transmit herewith
communication from the Community Development Office
relative to Senate Bill 1302.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/b

Agenda # 20

S-434

Awaiting Report Item No. 24 pertaining to
Senate Bill 1302.

In City Council,

June 25, 1984

6/25/84

Placed

on

File