

JOSEPH A. SPADAFORA
COUNSELOR AT LAW

FOSTER BUILDING
106 FOSTER STREET, WEST
MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS 02176

December 14, 1970

Honorable Mayor Vellucci
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear City Councillors:

I am writing to the Council to inform them of the fact that as of 12/14/70 my services as Executive Director of the Cambridge Rent Control Office were terminated per order of John H. Corcoran, City Manager. The reasons given to me were that violations of the law by me, were presented to him, and on that basis it was determined that I was unfit to hold down said position. Those violations, and an explanation are included herein to show the glaring wrong doing to myself and the Rent Control Program. I wish to make it perfectly clear that I did not resign, I was terminated. There was and is no justification for such termination based on the violations submitted to Mr. Corcoran. There was and is no justification for termination on the basis of my work performed so far. My personal opinion is that myself and my staff have accomplished a remarkable amount of valuable work in an extremely short span of time. We also have reduced to a great degree the confusion which reigned in Cambridge concerning Rent Control since I was appointed to this position on 11/27/70. We also have taken proper steps to completely reduce the remaining confusion, and administer the law in a fair and impartial manner. However, I feel that it is impossible under the present political situation for any administrator or director or city manager to administer the Rent Control Law fairly and impartially without getting his job terminated. The reasons for my termination, I believe, was that I fairly and impartially administered the law and in the process of so doing refused on numerous occasions to act in a manner that I felt was contrary to the spirit of said law.

Regarding the list of my violations of the law, enclosed herewith, and a personal explanation of each, I would like to point out some facts which are quite inconsistent with the use of said violations as a reason for termination.

1. I was interviewed by a panel of eight people all of whom investigated my background quite thoroughly, none of these violations were mentioned and I was one of three recommended.
2. Two weeks later I was interviewed by Mr. Cronin, the City Solicitor, and none of this came out. I assume that a check is run on any potential candidate for a position of this magnitude.

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3. One more month elapsed, and no mention of these violations was made on or after Nov. 27th the day I was hired. I cannot imagine that this information was not previously known and acted on one way or another.
4. The most crucial point concerning these violations is the fact that fact that with the exception of the last three violations, all questions as to my honesty, integrity and character as it relates to the violations was scrutinized, passed upon and judged by the Massachusetts Board of Examiners who duly admitted me to practice in the Commonwealth of Mass., considering me to be a person of honorable character.

I fail to realize and understand how anyone can dispute the Board of Examiners findings. If I am qualified to be an attorney, and an officer of the Courts of this Commonwealth. These violations have been previously judged non detrimental to my professional and personal qualifications by a highly competent and professional fact finding board. The decision reached by the Administration of Cambridge is typical of most of their decisions, confusing and very difficult to comprehend.

My conclusion is obvious. Rent Control in Cambridge will never be run fair and impartial if tactics of this nature are used to coerce people to either resign or be fired. The confusion will only get worse, and it is my opinion that certain groups would rather see the Rent Control situation in a state of chaos rather than order, bias rather than impartiality, and to achieve these ends, tactics of this nature are used.

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The following is a list of my violations and a personal explanation.
Same are self explanatory.

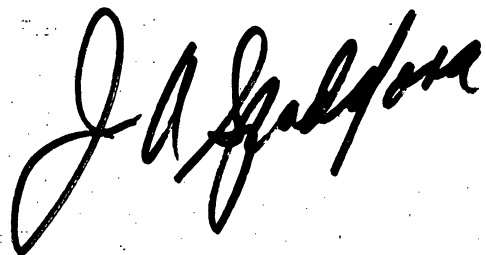
1. July 19, '61 speeding - \$15. fine.
2. June 20, '63 Disturbing the peace - I was 21 years old when I went to a party which was quite noisy and 18 people got arrested. We all got fined \$10.00.
3. 9/3/64 - Stop sign - \$10.00 fine.
4. 9/9/64 - I was a bartender for the summer and I served someone who was under 21 by mistake. I got fined \$25.00. This is automatic regardless of false identification etc.
5. 10/21/64 - not slowing down at an intersection...\$10.00 fine.
6. 11/21/66 illegal left turn \$10.00 fine.
7. 7/12/67 Traffic Light - \$10.00 fine.
8. May 1/68 Assault Deadly Weapon - Not Guilty.
May 1/68 Carrying a Weapon - Dismissed, I was defending myself against a burglar in my apartment building.

All the above were considered by the Mass. Board of Examiners
and they admitted me to the Massachusetts Bar.

Feb. 6, 1969 - Drunk - Released.
Dec. 15, 1969 - Speeding - \$20.00 fine.
Jan. 19, 1970 - Drunk - Released.

All this indicates is that I have a tendency to drive fast, and
to have a drink on occasion. This explanation would be unnecessary if any
of these violations concerned matters relating to the directorship of
the Rent Control Administration.

I submit that the decision to terminate my employment on the above
violations was as frivolous as many other confusing decisions made by the
Administration of the City of Cambridge.



Communication from Joseph A. Spadafora
informing the City Council that on Dec. 14,
1970 his services as Executive Director
of the Cambridge Rent Control Office were
terminated.

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