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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

70 Willow Street

Cambridge, Mass.

Nov. 19, 1973

Alflorencia Cheatham
Superintendent of Schools
Cambridge School Department
1700 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Superintendent Cheatham:

I am writing to you and to Mr Conrad Fagone in the hope that steps can be taken to clean up and repair the rear of the Harrington School and the tot-lot and basketball area. I have no confidence in the Recreation Department's ability or interest with respect to this area.

Presently, the rear of the school is covered with paint spelling out racist, obscene, and anti-police sentiments; a number of windows are broken; and several trees along the wall have had their protective fencing torn down.

Much of the fencing around the basketball court is lying on the ground; rims and nets have been missing for months. The lights, broken by vandals, have not been repaired. (This is a favorite, safe street-hockey site, so lights should be on even in the winter.)

In the tot-lot there are broken and missing swings, and dangerous, burned out holes in the wooden structure which should be repaired, not torn down. The large slide has been broken from its bottom moorings all year. The sand areas are always littered with large pieces of broken glass.

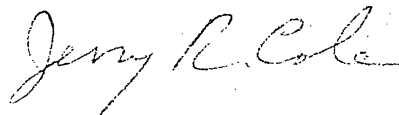
I fully understand that it is the fault of no one in authority that such damage occurs, but I find it inexcusable that nothing is done about it once it happens. There is no reason why an entire neighborhood should be made to suffer because of a few destructive, irresponsible children. Effort

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by you to help remedy this situation would be greatly appreciated in this neighborhood. May I suggest a concerted effort by the relevant city departments, perhaps under your coordination, as a logical approach?

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry R. Cole". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jerry R. Cole

Copies: John Corcoran
Robert LeBlanc
James Farrell
Conrad Fagone
Cambridge School Committee
Cambridge City Council

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Communication from Jerry R. Cole concerning steps he feels should be taken to clean up & repair the rear of the Harrington School, tot lot and basketball area.

In City Council,

~~XXXXXX~~ 1973

Dec. 3, 1973

*Referred to the
City Manager
for
Repair prior
to*

*December 17, 1973.
Copy put into mgr's
folder 12/4/73 dl*