



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 25, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 99-1, regarding a report on what safety issues are presented by different types of locks which can be used to lock windows, which are partially opened, Fire Chief Kevin Fitzgerald reports the following:

There are two (2) types of locking devices for partially opened windows that the Fire Department is familiar with. One employs a movable stop. When locked this prevents raising the lower sash above the stop, this device is secured to the upper sash by screws.

The second type is a spring-loaded friction device. This type of lock is secured to the lower sash by one or more screws. The occupant to position the lower sash as desired depresses a spring-loaded lever.

Both of these locks are inexpensive and easily installed. They should be available in most hardware stores.

The only safety issue under fire conditions would be the occupant using the window as an egress. In a room heavily charged with heat and smoke the lock may be above the level of safety. Both heat and smoke rise in a room presenting danger to people standing up. However, the Fire Department has no opposition to either type of window lock.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

Consent Agenda #16

S-578

Relative to AR #99-1, regarding
a report on what safety issues
are presented by different types
of locks which can be used to
lock windows.

In City Council January 25, 1999

Referred to

Public Safety Committee