

Reeves

Denise A. Jillson
5 Chester Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

June 11, 1990

Councillor Kenneth Reeves
Cambridge City Council

Dear Councillor Reeves:

I am writing this letter to first of all thank you for your participation in helping to resolve my " conflict ". I would, however, like to bring some problems to your attention. To briefly recap the events:

1. I responded to a public notice that was printed in the newspaper last fall.
2. Last November I was sited by the Building Department for having a health and safety violation and was told to have the unit in question vacated immediately.
3. Ordinance 1093 was passed in December, but I was informed by the Rent Control Board not to make any changes as the ordinance was to be repealed.
4. In January, I received a subpoena to appear in court because I was in violation of the building department notice.
5. The building department drops their charges pending an on-site inspection by Mr. Terry Morris and Mr. Joseph Celluci.
6. Mr. Morris and Mr. Celluci inspect my premises and determine that no conflict exists and Mr. Celluci promises to update the building department records to agree with the Rent Board records.

Now, we could debate the secondary means of egress and the liability involved for a long time. That is not my intention. Frankly, as long as the building department issues me a signed Certificate of Occupany, I'll consider this matter a " done deal ". I would like to know if there is any mechanism in place to reimburse me for legal fees. Fees that were incurred as a direct result of the City's inability to keep meaningful and accurate records.

In addition to this roller coaster ride of political maneuvers topped off by unwarranted attorney fees, insult was added to injury last Wednesday night at my rent board hearing. Since I had been told verbally by both Terry Morris and Joe Celluci that in effect, I had no conflict, my hearing was strictly a formality. I did not bother to bring my husband nor my attorney and none of my tenants were present as this matter did not affect them in any way. So you can imagine my surprise to find that I was not alone when the Rent Board called my case. Much to my disbelief, Mr. Michael Turk, representing the Cambridge Tenants Union and Ms. Lynn Wyseberg, representing SPILL stood up and joined me in front of the board!

Councillor Reeves, it is beyond the scope of my comprehension, that any person representing any group in this city can appear before the rent board and discuss private property. Property they have never set a foot in. The fact that they can do this unsolicited by a tenant living in that property is even more incomprehensible. To have to sit before the board and listen to their unsolicited recommendations was more than I could bear. So I walked out of the hearing and finished my dealings with the board over the telephone.

I have two reasons for sharing this story with you. One, I want to say publically that when Mr. Turk and Ms. Wyseberg start paying the \$ 2500.00 mortgage, the electric bill, the gas bill, the water bill, the oil bill, and when they mow the lawn, rake the leaves, shovel the snow, take out the garbage, fix the leaky faucets, unclog the toilets and perform all the other thankless tasks that an owner performs; then and only then will I sit and listen to their recommendations.

My second reason is that my case is the first "conflicts " case to be resolved. If my reaction to their presence is any indication of how Small Property Owners are feeling toward the unsolicited intervention of the CTU and SPIL, if I were your I'd tell them to BUTT OUT! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Denise A. Jillson
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CC: Mayor Alice Wolf
Walter Sullivan
William Walsh
Sheila Russell
Timothy Toomey
Jonathan Myers
Ed Cyr
Frank Duhey

S-690
Comm. from Denise A. Jillson, 5
Chester Street, expressing appreciation
to the resolution to her "conflict"
problem.

In City Council,

June 25, 1990