

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The City Council

FROM: Daniel J. Wuenschel, Executive Director, Cambridge Housing Authority

SUBJECT: The Russell School

DATE: November 17, 1978



It has come to the attention of the Authority that the Council has directed the demolition of the Russell School. This, we understand, is in answer to community requests.

It is our feeling that the community made this request without the knowledge that the Cambridge Housing Authority had funds available to it to undertake the rehabilitation of this building into housing for the elderly. We have found both an expressed need for elder housing in the area and evidence of support by community residents for such a use of the Russell School.

The Authority is in a position to commission an architectural/engineering feasibility study of the Russell School immediately. This study would be undertaken under State assisted 667 funding already awarded the Cambridge Housing Authority and could be accomplished within six weeks of this date.

Accordingly, we are asking Council to stay its demolition order for the Russell School so that the Cambridge Housing Authority can conduct an appropriate feasibility study. The results of this study would be made known to the Council six weeks from this date. If the Russell School can feasibly be converted to elder housing, the Authority would petition the City for conveyance of title and proceed quickly to design and bid this work. Construction funding is available.

We would appreciate your favorable attention to this request.

DJW/cg



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

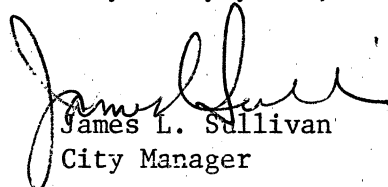
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

November 20, 1978

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory communication from Daniel J. Wuenschel, Executive Director of the Cambridge Housing Authority, relative to a request to stay the demolition order for the Russell School.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #12

490

RE: comm. from Daniel J. Wuenschel, Exec.
Director, Cambridge Housing Authority, re:
a request to stay the demolition order of
the Russell School.

In City Council,

November 20, 1978

11/26/78

Placed on File -