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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Harvard Tenants Union
P.O. Box 1524
Cambridge, MA 02238

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

January 24, 1985

To The Honorable; The City Council:

We would like to convey our thanks to the City Council for their interest in and demonstrated concern with Harvard University's proposed decontrol and sale of its 2-3 unit properties in Cambridge. We support the proposals offered by the Council and trust that they will be further investigated: non-binding (or binding) referendum, an investigation by the Human Rights Commission, a meeting with Derek Bok, and a restriction disqualifying Harvard faculty as owner-occupants without first obtaining a removal permit.

Fifty-five rent control dwellings (115 units) are affected. The tenants in these buildings are deeply concerned with the possibility of losing their homes. Not only Harvard tenants, many of whom have lived in their apartments 10, 15 or 20 years, but all low- and moderate-income Cambridge residents will be the losers if these buildings are effectively removed from the stock of affordable housing in the City.

We appreciate your support and would like to assure you that tenants and other community members are continuing to meet around this issue to propose alternatives to Harvard's new policy. Backing for this issue extends beyond the Agassiz and Riverside neighborhoods: our petitions submitted to the Council demonstrated that people in Cambridge seek an immediate end to Harvard's expansion.

We therefore hope the City's response will be swift as Harvard's encroachment on the Agassiz and Riverside neighborhoods is unprecedented: the loss of 2-3 unit dwellings to Harvard senior faculty would make this trend seemingly irreversible. We support the Council in these actions and any others appropriate to putting an end to Harvard's insensitive assault on the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

(FOR) HARVARD TENANT'S UNION

Daniel Lenyo
Leona Roach
Mike Turk

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Mike H. Turk

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S-82

Comm. from Daniel Lemp, Leona Roach & Mike Turk of the Harvard Tenants Union, expressing their thanks to the Council for their interest & concern Re: Harvard University's proposed decontrol & sale of 2-3 unit properties in Cambridge.

In City Council,

January 28, 1985

1/28/85
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on
File -