

City Clerk's
office
5/14/98

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CAMBRIDGE EVICTION FREE ZONE

LA ZONA LIBRE DE DESALOJO ZONA LIVRE DE DESPEJOS ZON DEGEPI SMAN ENTEDI
11 Inman St., Cambridge MA 02139 (617) 868-2900

May 14, 1998

Mayor Frank Duehay
Vice Mayor Galluccio
City Councilors

Dear Councilors:

We are writing to inform you of the increasing numbers of cases that have come to our attention involving Sec. 8 tenants. Since the end of rent control, Sec. 8 tenants have had more and more difficulty finding apartments in which to use their subsidies. This is true even though the Cambridge Housing Authority has been allowed by HUD to pay 120% of FMR (fair market rent). This is an indication of just how high rents have gotten in Cambridge.

The dilemma, however, does not confront only Sec. 8 tenants looking for apartments. More and more Sec. 8 tenants with existing leases are being told to vacate by landlords who realize that market rents are higher than their tenants' subsidies will pay. Once hungry for Sec. 8's and MRVP tenants because they paid over the rent control rent, many owners now want to get rid of these same people. And there are also cases of plainly illegal discrimination against Sec. 8 subsidies. The Human Rights Commission has handled a number of cases like this.

In addition to these individual dilemmas, other troubles affect the program. Some landlords are reported to be systematically reducing the number of their Sec. 8's, even in buildings designated as affordable housing. On a national level, recent decisions in Congress "rescind" money from the HUD budget, including Sec. 8, in order to pay for overseas operation. It is imperative that this money be restored in next year's budget.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hall

Nancy Hall

Consent Communication #15

367-S

A communication was received from
Nancy Hall, Cambridge Eviction
Free Zone, transmitting a letter of
concern involving Section 8 tenants.

In City Council May 18, 1998

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