



City of Cambridge

~~37.~~

Consent Comm. #54

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 22, 1998

COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: That the order previously adopted by the City Council at its meeting of June 22, 1998 be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

WHEREAS: On Thanksgiving Day 1997, hundreds of Native Americans and their supporters gathered to observe the 28th National Day of Mourning, organized by United American Indians of New England; and

WHEREAS: Their peaceful march was ambushed and attacked by a combine force of several police agencies; and

WHEREAS: During the assault the police used pepper spray and mace in the eyes of elders and children; and

WHEREAS: The men and women arrested at this peaceful demonstration were simply exercising their civil and constitution rights as United States citizens; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Council join with many other individuals and organizations including the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, The United Steelworkers of America, Local 8751, Teamsters former U.S. Attorney General in condemning these acts of police brutality and In Plymouth on November 27, 1997; and be it further

ORDERED: That all charges be immediately dropped against the twenty-five people arrested and that a public apology be directed to those twenty-five people from all police agencies involved.

In City Council July 27, 1998.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk



City of Cambridge

37.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 22, 1998

COUNCILLOR BORN

- WHEREAS:** On Thanksgiving Day 1997, hundred of native Americans and their supporters gathered to observe the 28th National Day of Mourning, organized by United American Indians of New England; and
- WHEREAS:** Their peaceful march was ambushed and attacked by a combine force of several police agencies; and
- WHEREAS:** During the assault the police used pepper spray and mace in the eyes of elders and children; and
- WHEREAS:** The men and women arrested at this peaceful demonstration were simply exercising their civil and constitution rights as United States citizens; now therefore be it
- ORDERED:** That the Cambridge City Council join with many other individuals and organizations including the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union, The United Steelworkers of America, Local 8751, Teamsters Local 25 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, The Service Employees International Union, Local 285, The Painters and Allied Trades District Council No. 35, and Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General in condemning these acts of police brutality and in requesting of Governor Cellucci and all appropriate agencies that an open and independent inquiry be held to bring out the truth about the brutality and violations of civil rights that occurred in Plymouth on November 27, 1997.

We, the undersigned, wish to express our outrage over the police assault on Native Americans and their supporters in Plymouth, Massachusetts on November 27, 1997, U.S. "Thanksgiving" day.

On that day, hundreds of Native Americans and their supporters gathered in Plymouth, Mass. to observe the 28th National Day of Mourning, organized by United American Indians of New England. Their peaceful march was attacked by about 150 police from the Plymouth Police Dept., Mass. State Troopers, and other police agencies. During the assault, the cops used pepper spray and mace in the eyes of elders and children. People wearing buttons or T-shirts demanding freedom for Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier were singled out for harassment and arrest.

This completely unprovoked assault resulted in the arrests of 25 women and men from all four directions -- Indigenous people from North and Central America, Black, Latino, Asian, and white, straight, lesbian, and gay -- on charges ranging from assembly without a permit to assault and battery on a police officer. The ages of those arrested ranged from 20 to 67 years old.

We demand the following:

- Drop all the charges immediately against the 25 people arrested.
- A public apology from all police agencies involved..
- An open public inquiry into the police brutality that occurred in Plymouth on Nov. 27, 1997. This must be done by independent parties, not by police agencies or prosecutors. Mass. Governor Cellucci and other state and national public figures must break their silence and condemn the police violence that occurred in Plymouth on "Thanksgiving" day.

NAME _____

ADDRESS

Phone

e-mail

1998 JUL 22 P 4:02
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

19 Cameron Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
July 22, 1998
(617) 868-3197

Cambridge City Council
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Attn: Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Dear Council Members:

First and foremost, I want to express my great appreciation for the unanimous passage of Councillor Born's Resolution on June 22, 1998, concerning the police assault and arrests on peaceful Native Americans and supporters observing the 28th National Day of Mourning on November 27, 1998.

I do so on behalf of myself, many other Cambridge residents involved on that day (of whom I am one) and since, and all of those who were arrested or otherwise injured or traumatized on that day; and also on behalf of the many thousands now working to straighten out this unconstitutional and shocking event. We will make good use of the City Council resolution, along with the many, many others we have received.

However, somewhere in the process of submitting the resolution to Councillor Born, two important requests were omitted. It is clear from the text that these are agreed with, but the organizers have requested that they be added if possible, as this would make the Cambridge Resolution much more useful. Councillor Born is herself sympathetic to these addition/^{al}points, which are: that all the charges against the 25 people arrested should be dropped immediately; and that there should be a public apology from all the police agencies involved. (The Resolution already asks that the acts of police brutality be condemned, and that there be an inquiry about the brutality and civil rights violations.

I enclose a copy of the original Resolution, and also of the petition we circulate, which contains the requests.

Once again, I thank you, and I thank you in advance for making this Resolution even better. I believe that this reflects well on our City, of which I am proud to be a resident.

Sincerely,



Martha J. Older

Consent Communication #54

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A communication was received from Martha J. Older, 19 Cameron Avenue, transmitting grateful appreciation for the resolution adopted by the City Council concerning the police assault and arrest of Native Americans and supporters observing the 28th National Day of Mourning.

In City Council July 27, 1998

**PLACED ON FILE
ORDER ADOPTED**