



City of Cambridge

O-10.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 7, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: There has been an Archives Committee which has been meeting regularly to discuss the issue of preserving vital city, civic, religious, historical and institutional records; and

WHEREAS: A grant was received from the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board and the Secretary of State which was sent to the Historical Commission to develop a documentation plan for the continuing identification, collection, preservation and the use of the city's vast public and private records that will enable the Historical Commission to develop a plan for locating and assessing materials in the city and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS: The Secretary of State submitted proposed legislation that has been filed by Senator Brewer for an appropriation of \$150,000 to continue the local records grant program; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record in support of Senate Bill 1537; said support to be submitted for the hearing to be held on Monday, May 21, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. in Room B-1, State House; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward this resolution to the Cambridge delegation.

In City Council May 7, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councilman Davis

Whereas: There has been an Archives Committee which has been meeting regularly to discuss the issue of preserving vital city, civic, religious, & historical & ~~and~~ institutional records; &

Whereas: A grant ^{from Mass. Historical Rec Adv Bd & Sec of State} was received from the State & went to the historical

Whereas A grant was received from the Mass Historical Records Advisory Board & the Secretary of State which was sent to the Historical Commission to develop a documentation plan for the continuing identification, collection, preservation & reuse of the city's vast public & private records that will enable the ~~com~~ Historical Commission to develop a plan for locating & assessing materials in the city & elsewhere; &

Whereas: The Secretary of State submitted proposed legislation that has been filed by Senator Brewer for an appropriation of \$150,000 to continue the local records grant program; now therefore be it

Resolved That this City Council go on record in support of Senate Bill 1537 ~~that will be heard~~; said support to be submitted for the hearing to be held on Monday, May 21, 2001 at 11 AM in Room B-1, State House; &

be it further

Res: That the City Clerk be & hereby is requested to forward this resolution to the Cambridge delegation.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
RECEIVES PROJECT GRANT FROM
MASS. HISTORICAL RECORDS BOARD

The Cambridge Historical Commission is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$6,525, to develop a much needed documentation plan for the continuing identification, collection, preservation, and use of the city's vast public and private records. The grant has been awarded by the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. In addition, grant funds will be supplemented by cash and in-kind contributions from the City of Cambridge. The project will run from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

Settled by Puritans in 1630, Cambridge has a long and rich public history. Its historical records include materials on educational institutions, commercial and industrial development, the establishment of churches, and civic reforms. These records, however, are held in numerous and often inaccessible repositories. For example, industries as varied as glass-, brick-, candy-, and furniture-making, established here by the mid-nineteenth century, were purchased by out-of-town owners who had little or no regard for the importance of such documents. Many corporate records have been destroyed or removed to various locales, often outside of Cambridge. Similarly, the city's own archival materials relating to the daily operations of government are not stored in one central location, but in vaults located in offices all over the city. Descriptions of holdings are often nonexistent, and vary in quality and detail.

Even more challenging is the task of locating and appraising Cambridge-related materials that are kept in private collections. Personal papers, family archives, records of churches and small businesses, as well as unwritten histories of organizations and clubs are stashed away in basements, attics, closets, and desk drawers. Much of this material is at risk or inaccessible because it is held by organizations or individuals with inadequate means of maintaining their collections or making them available for use. Unearthing these valuable materials will be a daunting - but rewarding - task.

The documentation project will enable the Commission to develop a plan for locating and assessing materials from all of these sources, both in the city and elsewhere. The project will also establish criteria and begin to create a database of materials in Cambridge-related collections, with the goal of making the information accessible to a wide range of researchers.

In addition to documenting existing records, the project hopes to increase the membership of the Archives Committee by attracting interested citizens and custodians of historical records; devise ways to rescue endangered records; and develop complementary collecting policies among the various repositories to ensure appropriate permanent homes for papers of long-term value. The project will also support the proposed local history room and city archive that will be included in the new main branch of the Cambridge Public Library.

The project co-directors are Charles M. Sullivan, Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, and Eva Moseley, recently retired curator of manuscripts at the

Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe. The proposal was submitted by the Commission on behalf of the newly-formed Cambridge Archives Committee, which comprises custodians of the city's public and private historical records. The committee includes representatives from the archives of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Cambridge Historical Society, the Cambridge Public Library, the Longfellow National Historic Site, the office of the City Clerk, and the Schlesinger.

Those who have or know of Cambridge-related records or who might be interested in joining the Cambridge Archives Committee are encouraged to contact Charles Sullivan at the Commission at 831 Massachusetts Avenue (617 349 4683) or Eva Moseley at 617 868 7569.



Cambridge Historical Commission

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: 617.349.4683
Fax: 617.349.3116 TTY: 617.349.6112 E-mail: histcomm@ci.cambridge.ma.us



William B. King, *Chair*, Allison M. Crump, *Vice Chair*, Charles M. Sullivan, *Executive Director*
M. Wyllis Bibbins, Suzanne R. Green, Helen F. Moulton, Robert G. Neiley, Jo M. Solet, *Members*
Bruce Irving, Jennifer Jones, Frank Shirley, *Alternates*

FAX COVER SHEET

Our fax number has changed! The new number is 617.349.3116.

DATE 3 May 2001

TO Donna

FACSIMILE 4269 TELEPHONE _____

FROM KJ

REMARKS Attached is the press release
about the grant. I don't know if
the \$150,000 is in addition to other
funds or total funds. Megan or
Nancy Richard (617 720 713 x12)
might know.

NUMBER OF SHEETS, INCLUDING COVER SHEET 3

ALL RETURN FAXES SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED TO THE ATTENTION OF
THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION. IF THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS WITH
TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SENDER AT 617.349.4683.

From: "Eva S. Moseley" <esmoseley@mindspring.com>
To: "Susan Flannery" <sflannery@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
"Roy Rudolph" <rrudolph@longy.edu>,
"Nancy Richard" <n.richard@rcn.com>,
"Michelle Feller-Kopman" <michelle@shore.net>,
"Meg Winslow" <mwinslow@mtauburn.com>,
"Margaret Drury" <mdrury@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
"Kathleen Rawlins" <krawlins@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
"Janice Hodson" <janice_hodson@nps.gov>,
"James Shea" <jim_shea@nps.gov>,
"Donna Lopez" <dlopez@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
"Donald York" <dyork@ci.cambridge.ma.us>,
"Brian A. Sullivan" <brian_sullivan@harvard.edu>,
"Aurore Eaton" <camhistory@aol.com>,
"Anita Israel" <anita_israel@nps.gov>,
"Kathy Jacob" <kjacob@radcliffe.edu>
Subject: Fw: legislation
Date sent: Wed, 2 May 2001 22:30:02 -0400

See message below about legislation. Any letters of support to your own
reps. and senators will surely help.

Also, we have set two more meetings of the Archives Committee, both at the
Historical Commission at 3:30: on May 15th and June 1st. The first will be
a second meeting with our web consultant, the other probably with folks from
Gloucester who have set up a municipal archives/records management program.

-----Original Message-----

From: Megan Sniffin-Marinoff <msniffin@MIT.EDU>
To: esmoseley@mindspring.com <esmoseley@mindspring.com>
Cc: n.richard@rcn.com <n.richard@rcn.com>
Date: Wednesday, May 02, 2001 9:53 PM
Subject: legislation

>Eva:
>
>There is a hearing on Senate Bill 1537 on Monday, May 21 at 11:00AM in Room
>B1 of the State House. This bill is for the legislation submitted by
>Secretary of State Galvin and filed by Senator Brewer for \$150,000 to
>continue the local records grant program. I know you are over-extended at
>the moment, but if you and or others from the CAC (I cannot) could send a
>letter to the Cambridge reps. in support of the bill, this would really
>help. Many letters of support are coming from those groups who received
>funding for projects such as ours.
>
>If you have any thoughts or ideas on spreading the word among
>colleagues and friends I'll pass this along to the folks at the Archives.
>
>Megan
>
>
>
>-----
>Megan G. Sniffin-Marinoff
>Head, Institute Archives and Special Collections
>MIT Libraries
>Building 14N-118
>Massachusetts Institute of Technology
>77 Massachusetts Ave.
>Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4307
>
>Phone 617.253.5688 or 617.253.5690
>Fax 617.258.7305
>Email msniffin@mit.edu
><http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/>
>



City of Cambridge

O-10.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 7, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN

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726R

Order #10

Support of Senate Bill 1537 which
will continue the local records,
grant program.

Councillor Davis and Born

In City Council May 7, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED