



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To : James L. Sullivan
City Manager

Date : December 19, 1977

From : Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner *CCF*
Public Works Department

Reference

Subject

The enclosed Public Notification is forwarded to you for transmittal to the City Council.

This Public Notification is being released to the Cambridge Chronicle, and to Station WCAS in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Public Notification Laws, in reference to new standards for drinking water.

At this time, I would like to request that you ask the City Council to review the water rate increase, previously requested by me. The Water Department has for the past year been experiencing various problems in maintaining the quality of water desirable to the citizens of Cambridge. The problems that we have been experiencing have been primarily due to deficiencies in the water system which have been inaccurate for some three years with the inadequate rate structure of the department.

The problems that the City has experienced will continue to increase unless we realize our obligation, and adequately fund the Water Department.

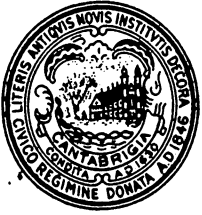
I would be pleased to discuss this with you and/or the City Council at your convenience. However, I must express the urgency of this request and that your favorable consideration is requested.

Enclosure

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

During the month of November the City of Cambridge collected bacteria samples in the community every day to see if there were any bacterial growths of the coliform group in its drinking water. During the first two weeks of November, the City did find some growth of this bacteria in some locations. State Regulations require that the City of Cambridge notify the people of Cambridge that the maximum contaminant level for coliform bacteria was exceeded in November. State health officials were notified at the time of the bacteria growths and they did not feel it necessary for the City to notify the people to boil the water but rather to have the water treatment plant raise its chlorine level. Though the plant has always maintained, according to regulations, a sufficient chlorine level to kill all coliform organisms, in compliance with the state's recommendation, the chlorine level was raised for the remainder of the month.

The presence of coliform does not necessarily indicate health problems. However, it does indicate that there is a possibility that pathogenic organisms could be present. Research conducted at that time in the Cambridge Emergency rooms indicated that there were no increases in gastro-intestinal problems. Coliform bacteria can not be seen and is not related to discolored water due to metals.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6300

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

December 19, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a communication from Conrad C. Fagone, Commissioner of Public Works, relative to a Public Notification which is being released in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency Public Notification Laws, and a request to review the water rate increase.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc. 2

Agenda #3

5-636

RE: Public Notification in compliance with
the laws of the Environmental Protection
Agency and a request to review the water rate
increase.

In City Council,

Dec. 19, 1977

12/19/77

No Action Taken

Placed on File -