

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

John H. Corcoran
Assistant City Manager

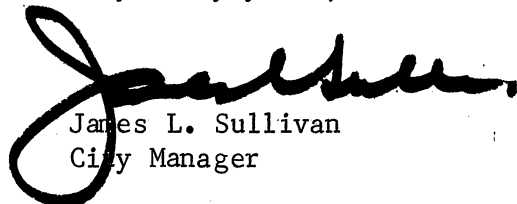
November 17, 1969

Honorable Walter J. Sullivan
Mayor
28 Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mayor Sullivan:

As requested I transmit herewith a copy of
communication from Cambion dated November 5, 1969,
which is self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/eb



Standardize on Cambion . . . the guaranteed electronic components

Telephone (617) 491-5400

WUX-PZO

TWX-(710) 320-6399

CABLE--CAMBION

445 CONCORD AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, 02138

November 5, 1969

Mr. James L. Sullivan, City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
79 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

First, I wish to thank you for your courtesy in letting me and my associates from Cambridge Thermionic Corporation discuss with you complaints expressed at the hearing before the Cambridge Planning Board on September 23, 1969 and the matters referred to in the letter on October 27, 1969 from Charles F. Sprague, Superintendent of Buildings and Inspector of Buildings.

Second, I wish to say again how deeply disturbed and troubled I am about the number and earnestness of the complaints voiced by our Cambridge neighbors about our operation. Cambridge Thermionic Corporation and its associated companies have been located in the same block on Concord Avenue since 1938. We have always endeavored to be good citizens and, as a long-time resident of Cambridge, I am particularly concerned about the quality of living in the city. We have been fortunate in that our business has grown over the years to the point where we now have some 500 people working for us and pay Cambridge nearly \$40,000 in real estate taxes. I am afraid, however, that we may not have been fully aware of the impact on our neighbors of some of the conditions which have arisen as our business has grown.

The first matter mentioned in Mr. Sprague's letter of October 27, and the first matter raised by you at our conference, was our off-street parking on our property on the east side of Fern Street. When this activity was first undertaken we did receive permits from the Board of Zoning Appeals to use our property for this purpose, but we did allow the permits to lapse without being renewed. We have retained architects to prepare plans for the use of this property in accordance with the requirements of the zoning ordinance and intend to file applications with the Board of Zoning

Appeals for appropriate permits. If, as we hope will be the case, the permits are issued, we will strictly observe the requirements of the zoning ordinance as stated in the permits; if the permits are not issued, the automobiles of our employees which are now parked off the street will presumably have to be parked on the streets in the neighborhood. In either case, the complaints about surfacing, snow removal, etc. will be taken care of.

You also mentioned what appeared to be a non-conforming use for industrial purposes of a small masonry building located in the residential zone on the east side of Fern Street. The original portion of this building was built prior to 1924 when the first Cambridge zoning ordinance was adopted and in 1928 the Board of Zoning Appeals granted a variance from the zoning ordinance in connection with permitting the construction of an addition to this building. This building is presently used as a carpenter shop where light carpentry work is carried on and the portion of the premises between the building and Fern Street is used for storage of some carpentry supplies. We shall be glad to consider whether we can relocate these activities.

We also own a residential structure at the corner of Concord Avenue and Fern Street, at the rear of which there is a one-car garage, a two-car metal garage on the west side of Fern Street towards Field Street and a residential structure on Field Street. All of these structures have been and continue to be used for residential purposes only.

Mr. Sprague's letter and your remarks at our conference also referred to complaints about noise, odors and discharge of industrial waste into the gutter on the west side of Fern Street. The liquid observed to flow from the pipes into the gutter was in fact water, but even water should not have been allowed to flow into the gutter. One of the pipes carried off cooling water used to cool some machines, but we have installed other pipes so that this water is now discharged into the sanitary sewer piping in the plant. The other pipe carried excess run-off from rain water and snow melt on the roofs of our buildings west of Fern Street and we are taking steps to have this water directed through a pipe into the city storm drain system.

We, frankly, cannot account for the complaints about odors. Our business activities include the cutting or machining of small parts from brass and other metals; the molding of plastic assemblies in injection molding machines; the assembly of wires, electronic devices such as capacitors and resistors and other materials into electronic components; and the plating of metal parts with coats of a different

November 5, 1969

metal. None of these activities involves the formulation or manufacture of any chemical compounds. We buy all the plastic used in our injection molding machines in powder form and the machines cause powder to become a solid unit through heat and pressure. We do have a paint shop where some of our components are painted, and this has an exhaust system. Virtually all, however, of our ventilation apparatus is installed and operated for the purpose of removing hot air and steam so that any vapors which may occasionally be observed to emanate from our ventilating systems are generally nothing more than condensed moisture. We are aware of the fact that there are concerns in the neighborhood engaged in chemical manufacturing and suspect that some odors may occasionally be created by them.

Complaints about noise appear to have centered largely around our nightly trash collection and noises related to the fact that we do operate certain of our machinery on a three-shift basis. Our plant maintenance people have been rescheduled so that trash collection and dumping into the refuse containers of our outside contractors will be undertaken at the start of the day shift in the morning rather than at the end of the night shift at night. Our outside contractors remove their disposal units during the day so that this change in schedule should eliminate noise from this source. We are glad to make this change even though it does involve some operating problems for us.

There is some noise associated with the operation of machinery and we suppose it possible that some neighbors have heard the machines which operate on a three-shift basis. We have recently installed baffles in the ventilating systems exhausting the air from the space where these machines are located and we are actively investigating other practicable means of additional sound dampening.

You also mentioned complaints about "whistles". For some period of time we were troubled with low pressure in our water supply. When this occurred our low pressure alarm would sound, but the water pressure has been corrected so that this is no longer a problem. We also have a call system which has an exterior outlet, but we have muffled the exterior outlet. We have no whistles or any other apparatus which might sound like an alarm.

I hope this letter will assure you, and through you the members of the City Council, that we take seriously our responsibilities as citizens of Cambridge and that we have already undertaken effective

Mr. James L. Sullivan

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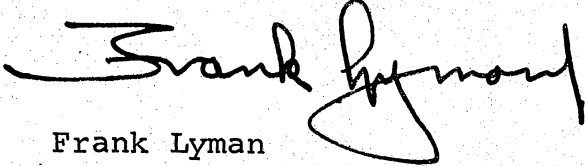
November 5, 1969

steps to remove so far as we reasonably can the causes of the complaints which we were most sorry to learn our neighbors had.

I wish to thank you again for your courtesy in this situation.

Sincerely yours,

CAMBRIDGE THERMIONIC CORPORATION .

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Lyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Frank Lyman
President



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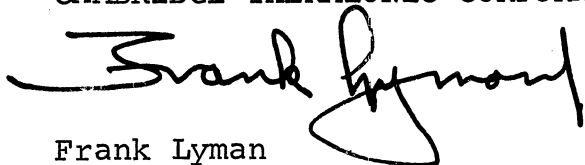
November 5, 1969

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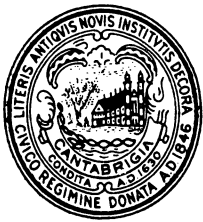
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Sincerely yours,

CAMBRIDGE THERMIONIC CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Lyman". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "F" and a cursive "Lyman".

Frank Lyman
President



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James L. Sullivan
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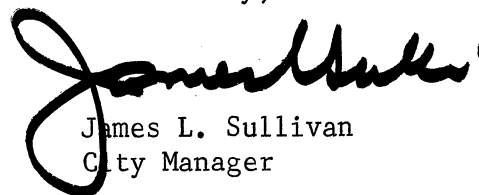
John H. Corcoran
Assistant City Manager

November 10, 1969

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith communication received from Mr. Frank Lyman,
President of Cambion, dated November 5, 1969, and relative to
complaints voiced by neighbors of the Cambridge Thermionic Corporation.

Yours truly,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS:pv

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COMMUNICATION
from the City Manager transmitting one from Frank Lyman, President of Cambion, dated November 5, 1969 and relative to complaints voiced by neighbors of the Cambridge Thermionic Corporation

November 10, 1969

10/10/69
Referred to the City
Manager for Report

12 Copies for all
City Councillors.
Present and Elected