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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

COUNCILLOR FRANCIS H. DUEHAY
26 LOWELL STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

June 14, 1984

The Honorable
Mayor Leonard J. Russell
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Russell:

Today the historic house at 1564 Massachusetts Avenue, which had been partially burned several years ago, was demolished in direct violation of the law. The owner had filed plans with the Inspectional Services Department to renovate the main house and to build town houses at the rear of the existing building. These plans were in conformity with the ruling of the Cambridge Historical Commission, and it is my understanding that the Department had approved those plans.

Now the entire house has been demolished.

I am asking you to schedule a hearing before the Cambridge City Council to establish the facts surrounding this illegal demolition and to determine what steps the City should next take. If the hearing schedule of the last meeting of the council before the summer recess is too crowded in your judgment, I hereby request you to convene a special meeting for this investigation.

At this hearing, I request that all appropriate city officials be present: members and staff of the Historical Commission, the Inspectional Services Department, the Fire Department (representing the ongoing arson investigation), and the Law Department, as well as the owner of the property, the contractors, and the architect. I respectfully request that the surrounding neighborhood be notified.

Sincerely yours,

Francis H. Duehay
Francis H. Duehay
Vice Mayor

FHD/smc

cc: Members of the City Council
City Clerk
City Manager Robert W. Healy
Inspectional Services Commissioner Joseph Cellucci
Cambridge Chronicle
Cambridge TAB

Comm. from Vice-Mayor Francis H. Duehay Re:
demolition of the historic house located at
1564 Maas. Avenue.

In City Council,

June 25, 1984

6/25/84

Referred to the
Committee