



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Captain Henry P. Gallagher DATE: December 21, 1984
FROM: Detective James F. Dwyer REFERENCE: 1151 Mass. Ave.
SUBJECT: Extensive Breaks - Old Cambridge Baptist Church

Sir:

As a result of an investigation concerning the recent breaks at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church located at 1151 Massachusetts Avenue, it was found that from a period of September 16 through December 19, 1984, there has been 11 breaks. These breaks have occurred by using force on interior doors but no signs of forced entry to outside doors. Many of the offices are occupied by activists groups with pro ties to Central America.

Mr. Garrett Brown, a staff member of the New Inst. Of Central America, (N.I.C.A.) was interviewed on December 19, 20, 1984. This organization has been the victim of three breaks occurring during this time frame. On this date this officer in an attempt to obtain physical evidence dusted several areas for prints. Other items along with the prints lifted were turned over to the I.D. Section for further processing. During this check for physical evidence, a visual view of several offices show, although plainly visible, items such as typewriters, phone answering machines, etc., were untouched. The main targets in these breaks were desks and organizational files. Although no files appear to be missing, a tape on N.I.C.A.'s telephone answering machine was taken. On a few occasions, petty cash was taken in the earlier breaks.

On December 19, 20, 1984, Miss Peggy Smith, the Church Administrator, was interviewed. Miss Smith stated that at least 50 people have keys to the outside doors. The outside doors are opened at 8:00 a.m. and are locked at approximately 11:00 p.m. Miss Smith states that the Church Sexton locks

the door at night. He walks through the building and shuts lights off and checks the building. Although the door is locked at 11:00 p.m. the organizations in this building are mainly staffed by volunteers. Most offices do not have set hours so people may be in the building at any hour during the day or night. Both Miss Smith and Mr. Brown feel that the breaks are occurring while the outside doors are unlocked.

On the most recent break on December 19, 1984, the Church Sexton discovered offices broken into while making his rounds at 10:40 p.m. At the time he found the breaks, several other offices in the same area were still occupied by legitimate people working in same.

As a result of interview with Miss Smith and Mr. Brown and a physical security check of the building revealed the following: there are two exterior doors which are opened from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and once locked, exit from the inside can be made without the use of a key. Entrance is not restricted to anyone who wants to gain entrance to the building during normal operating hours. People entering the building can come and go unnoticed even if the building is being used. Most of the offices have hollow core doors with the key in knob locks. These doors are easily violated and provide minimum security. Some of the offices have solid wood doors with dead bolts, however, these dead bolts only extend 3/4" into the door frame, again not providing the best security.

After conversation with Miss Smith and Mr. Brown and taking into consideration their reluctance to restrict access to the building by both tenants and street people wanting to use the building, the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Restrict access to one outside door.
- 2) To have a sign in and out Register, Manned.
- 3) To alert all tenants of the problem and report any unusual activities.
- 4) To have each office maintain their own sign in and out sheet.
- 5) Installation of local audio alarm systems on office doors to alert people in other offices if unlawful or illegal entry is made.
- 6) Installation of a key card system on outside doors if manned desk person is not feasible.

- 7) Interior doors to be of a solid core type with dead bolt locks extending 1 1/4" into door frame.
- 8) Installation of area motion detector alarms which admit a loud alarm if area is violated.

After hearing these suggestions, Miss Smith and Mr. Brown were responsive to many of them and will present them to other tenants as well as to the governing board of the Church.

The Cambridge Police Communications Division was notified and this location was added to their Computerized Hazard Alert File for rapid response in the event of a call for this church. In addition the Uniform Commanders were also made aware of the problem and will have the route and car officers check this location during their tour of duty.

The Criminal Investigation Division of the Cambridge Police Department is unaware of any Local, Federal, or State covert **interdiction** by any agency from a Cambridge stand point.

With the totality of circumstances concerning these incidences it is the opinion of this officer and is concurred by the Criminal Investigation Division Commander, Captain Henry Gallagher, that it certainly appears a person, or persons unknown, were on several of these breaks, interested only in the organizational files and data of the specific offices of certain organizations. As noted earlier on two occasions namely the Childrens Coop Day Care and N.I.C.A. property other than files were taken, latter breaks positively indicate, the files and data of organizations offices were illegally entered. It is the understanding of this officer at the writing of this report December 21, 1984, Miss Smith of the Old Cambridge Baptist Church informed this officer that other churches with similar type organizations have occurred in other cities recently.

In conclusion, at this time, that some of the security recommendations will be adopted to assist these organizations in functioning without further harassment and violations **of** their rights.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Dwyer

Detective James F. Dwyer
Criminal Investigation Division



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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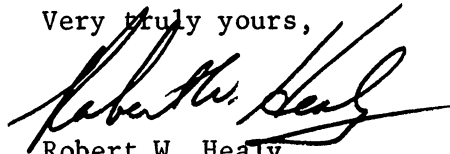
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

January 7, 1985

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 31 relative to break-ins at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, enclosed please find copy of a report from the Police Department. This report was previously transmitted to Council members on December 26, 1984.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

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Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 31
on break-ins at the Old Cambridge Baptist
Church.

In City Council,

January 7, 1985

1/7/1985

- Placed

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