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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

651 Green Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
July 26, 2001

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council:

The killing of Charles River White Geese continues. Most recently Bumpy, the leader of the flock, was murdered and his body mutilated.

Whoever is killing the geese is a dangerous criminal. People who attack animals like this often turn to attacks on people. Serial killers Ted Bundy and Son of Sam, for example, practiced on animals before they began to torture and kill humans.

These and all other attacks on the geese must cease. The nesting area must be restored. The Council must do its part to stop the attacks and restore the habitat.

A forensic psychiatrist has told me the core issue here is the declaration of "open season" on the White Geese by the relevant authorities.

The City of Cambridge is one of these authorities. Our City's Development Department drew up a three-part plan to destroy the White Geese's habitat and presented it at a public meeting in 1997. The MDC and Boston University used Phase I of the plan to destroy the geese's nesting area, deliberately to expose the geese to predators at their most vulnerable.

The City Council has approved the Manager's plans to destroy another part of the geese's habitat, at Magazine Beach, and has voted \$1.5 million of City funds to do so in Phase II.

As Phase III, Cambridge plans a walk through the final part of the geese's habitat--the riverfront from Magazine Beach to the destroyed nesting area. This would complete the destruction of the geese's habitat and duplicate a dangerous walkway on the Boston side of the river where people have been attacked.

Again: for the safety of people as well as the geese, attacks on the animals and their habitat must cease. The nesting area must be restored. The White Geese must be recognized as the natural treasure they are.

The Cambridge City Council can, as one of the authorities responsible for the attacks on the geese, declare an end to open season on them. It can disavow plans to destroy the geese's habitat and work instead to restore it. It can affirm the White Geese belong in their home in Cambridge, where they have lived for almost twenty years.

Ms. Larissa Brown, Chair
July 26, 2001
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This agreement expired in 1980. However, Harvard continued to respect the intent of the "red line" to curb speculation and provide early dialogue with neighbors about acquisitions beyond the campus. In 1989, Harvard constructed Observatory Commons at 239 - 255 Concord Avenue, a 23-unit, ground-leased condominium, to provide housing for Harvard faculty. One of the units is leased to the City of Cambridge for use as a public library. Community leaders and neighbors are now asking that Harvard increase its housing for affiliates. Although the University anticipates that our plans for the land we own in Allston can accommodate growth in our affiliate housing, there are still many affiliates who would prefer to live in Cambridge.

It is no longer the case that Harvard is speculating in the residential real estate market, the impetus for the 1970 "red line." Supplemental housing opportunities for Harvard in Cambridge will require suitable sites and we have begun the process of exploring appropriate options for new housing. We are interested in finding creative ways to combine an investment in affiliate housing with our investments in community housing.

We hope that this information is helpful to you and responds fully to your requests for information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mary Power or Travis McCready at 617-495-4955.

Sincerely,



Kathy A. Spiegelman

Associate Vice President for Planning and Real Estate

cc: Mayor Anthony Galluccio
Cambridge City Councilors
Cambridge Planning Board Members
Travis McCready, Harvard (Government & Community Affairs)
Mary Power, Harvard (Government & Community Affairs)
Bob McGaw, Harvard (Office of the General Counsel)
Tanya Iatridis, Harvard (Planning and Real Estate)

Enclosure: Twenty-five Year Land Transaction Report

3055

Communication #17

A communication was received
from Marilyn Wellons, regarding
the Charles River White Geese.

In City Council July 30, 2001

PLACED ON FILE