



City of Cambridge

40.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 12, 1993

VICE MAYOR CYR
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR WOLF

WHEREAS: Representative David Cohen (D-Newton) recently has filed legislation which will discourage developers, among others, from suing and thereby intimidating citizens who try to fight them; and

WHEREAS: Representative Cohen's legislation entitled "anti-SLAPP" is intended to battle suits that have come to be called "strategic litigation against public participation"; and

WHEREAS: According to the legislation, a suit could proceed only after a developer or any other plaintiff in a SLAPP suit proves the defendants named are not protected by the first Amendment right to free speech; and

WHEREAS: The anti-SLAPP suit law would kick in after a defendant enters a motion claiming he or she is being sued for exercising free speech; and

WHEREAS: Defendants successful in getting a suit dismissed will get attorneys fees paid by plaintiffs and according to the law the pre-trial motions that usually run up significant legal bills are suspended until a court rules on the SLAPP motion; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record favoring the passage of this Legislation and urge quick action on this measure by the Great and General Court; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to members of the Cambridge legislative delegation.

In City Council April 12, 1993.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;
ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

April 12, 1993

Vice Mayor Cyr

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111
CONSENT ORDER #40

R-164
[Signature]
Vice Mayor Cyr re: Favoring the passage
of the Anti-SLAPP legislation filed.

In City Council,

April 12, 1993

Order Adopted