

October 24, 1979

Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
795 Mass. Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to bring to your attention the possible misuse of public records on file at City Hall. I applied for a marriage license with my future husband on October 16, 1979. Since then I have received one mailing advertisement (wedding related), and two phone calls from men claiming to be independent brokers soliciting the sale of names of other couples about to be married and/or expecting children. One man, a Mr. Bill Brager, said he wished to use these names as contacts for financial investments. He also said, upon questioning, that he purchased a list with my name on it from City Hall.

I realize that by applying for a license my name becomes part of the public record and that probably anyone has legal access to it. However, I strongly question the selling of these lists for commercial purposes. Frankly, I object to an invasion of my privacy by salesmen, who seem to be privy to information that has not even been given to all of my friends.

If there is any way that my name and that of my future husbands, Michael Roberts, can be removed from the mailing lists being circulated and sold, please do so.

Also, I would like to know what law extends to a city government the right to profit (if it does) from the sale of citizen names registered on its books. Are voting lists sold for such purposes also?

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,



Esther Barath

cc: David A. Wylie
Mary Ellen Preusser

15.

S- 564

Comm. from Ms. Esther Barath re: publication
of vital records.

In City Council,

October 29, 1979