GENERAL INFORMATION

BZA-01727/-2120

The undersigned hereby petitions the Board of Zoning Appeal for the following:					
Special Permit: Variance: X	Appeal:				
PETITIONER: Cambrulge Try Inn by Mark Rodenck, Manger PETITIONER'S ADDRESS: 70 HISHland Avenue, Somerville My 02143					
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 6 SQC CEMENT	street				
TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: Residential ZON	NING DISTRICT: 8				
REASON FOR PETITION:					
Additions	New Structure				
Change in Use/Occupancy	Parking				
Conversion to Addi'l Dwelling Ur	nit's Sign				
Dormer	Subdivision				
Other:	-				
Petitioner seeks to Change, 22 residential room dormatory which is a pre-existing man compound use allowed under Cambridge Institutional use regulations to a non-institutional 22 room Lodging them. No physical Changes to the structure will be make article 4 Section 4.31 i (3) Lodging House use Article Section Applicants for a Variance must complete Pages 1-5 Applicants for a Special Permit must complete Pages 1-4 and 6 Applicants for an Appeal to the BZA of a Zoning determination by the Inspectional Services Department must attach a statement concerning the reasons for the appeal					
Original Signature(s): (Petitioner(s)/Owner)					
Address:	Mark Roderick (Print Name) 70 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02143				
Tel. No.:	617-230-3674				
	: markmyreattor @ yahoo. com				
Date:					

BZA APPLICATION FORM - OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

To be completed by OWNER, signed before a notary and returned to The Secretary of the Board of Foning Appeals.

1/10 Mary Lou Batt, Vice-President, Administration. Lesley University
Address: 29 Everett Street, Cambridge, MA 02138
State that I/We own the property located at 6 Sacremento Street ,
which is the subject of this zoning application.
The record title of this property is in the name of Lesley College (fla)
lesley University
*Pursuant to a deed of duly recorded in the date 3/1/1966, Middlesex South
County Registry of Deeds at Book 11057 , Page 459 ; or
Middlesex Registry District of Land Court, Certificate No
Book Page
Maylor Bats.
Signature (by Land Chrer or Agent*
*Written evidence of Agent's standing to represent petitioner may be requested.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, County of Middlesex
The above-name Mcrylov Bath personally appeared before ms,
this 20 of February, 2020, and made oath that the above statement is true. Notary
My commission expires No Send 4/2022 (Notary Seal). C. BRENDAN NOONAN, III Notary Public Commonwealth of Massachusetts My Comm. Expires November 4, 2022
 If ownership is not shown in recorded deed, e.g. if by court order, recent deed, or inheritance, please include documentation.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR A VARIANCE

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR A VARIANCE MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND SET FORTH IN COMPLETE DETAIL BY THE APPLICANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MGL 40A, SECTION 10:

A Literal enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance would involve a substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to the petitioner or appellant for the following reasons:

B)

C)

The size and configuration of the building in relation the lot would make it financially untenable to change the building to a conforming startle Ferrely use. The bulling pre-debes zoning (Constructed in 1902) and was orismally built as a 6 unit apartment house. It has been used as a dometry by lessen since 1996

The hardship is owing to the following circumstances relating to the soil conditions, shape or topography of such land or structures and especially affecting such land or structures but not affecting generally the zoning district in which it is located for the following rearsons:

The size of the streether and its placement on the lot would repure major demolition and reconstruction to a cheere dimensional compliance. Similarly with interes reconfiguration if structure would DESIRABLE RELIEF MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT EITHER:

1) Substantial detriment to the public good for the following reasons:

The prenises as currently used by Lesley University 15 a licensed 22 room lodging house nice the metitational use zoning provisions, Petitioner seeks house with no physical Clanges and thus no detyment to the public

2) Relief may be granted without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of this Ordinance for the following

reasons: The ordinance remits rendental use in thus Zonne Sutnict, and by Providing single row
occupancy units fulfills a soal of the life to provide
work force housings
* If You have any questions as to whether you can establish all of the
applicable legal requirements, you should consult with your own

attorney.

(ATTACHMENT B - PAGE 5)

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

LOCATION: <u>6</u>	Sacrenceno 0.3674	REQUESTED USE		B dging House
FROMS.		EXISTING	REQUESTED	ORDINANCE
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR	AREA:	CONDITIONS 411475	CONDITIONS 11475	REQUIREMENTS ¹ 375 (max.)
LOT AREA:		7157		5800 (min.
RATIO OF GROSS FL	OOR AREA	1.60_	1.60	.5/.35 (max.)
LOT AREA FOR EACH	DWELLING UNIT:	325	352	<u>4080</u> (min.)
SIZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	55		(min.
	DEPTH	129		
Setbacks in FRONT Feet: REAR	FRONT	8.25	8.25	
	REAR	_36	_36	(min.)
	LEFT SIDE	4.4	4.4	7.5 (min.)
	RIGHT SIDE	11.7	_11.7	12.5 (min.)
	HEIGHT	32	32	(max.)
	LENGTH	85		
	WIDTH	36		
RATIO OF USABLE OF	PEN SPACE		_	
10 LOI AREA: /				
NO. OF DWELLING U	NITS:	_22	52	(max.)
NO. OF PARKING SPA	ACES:	3	_3	(min./max)
NO. OF LOADING AR	EAS:	AIK	N/A	//A (min.)
DISTANCE TO NEARE	ST BLDG.	414	N/A	
Describe where apon same lot, and steel, etc.	plicable, other d type of const	occupancies on truction propos	same lot, the siz ed, e.g.; wood f	e of adjacent building rame, concrete, brick

^{1.} SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL

REGULATIONS).

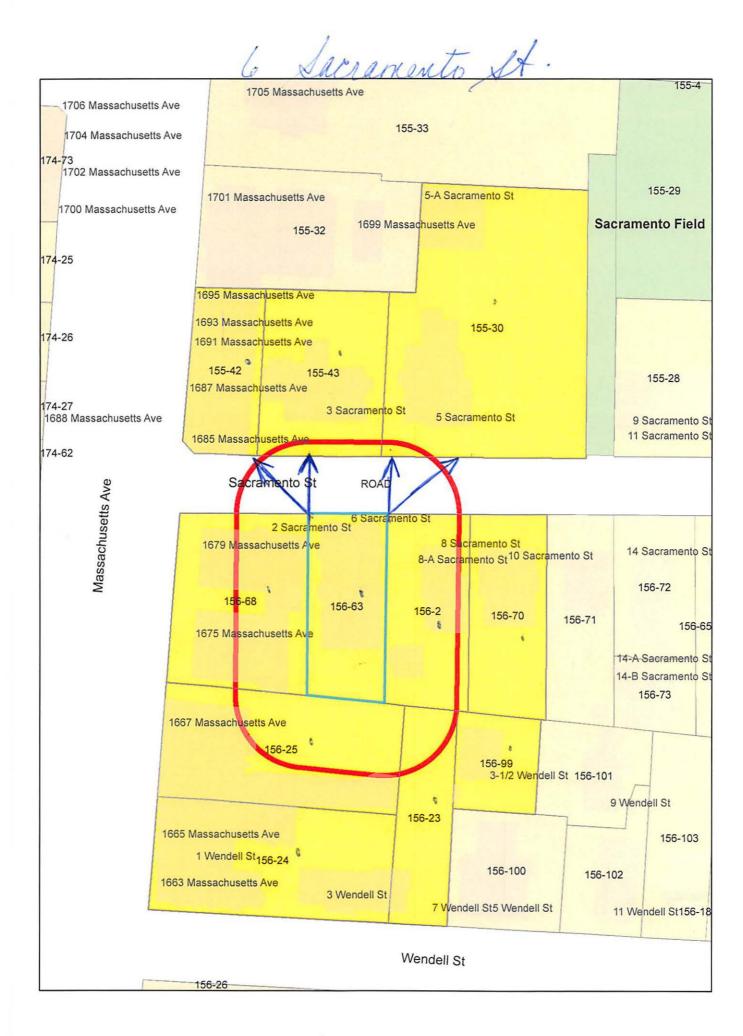
2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT 7'-0" IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.

3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Special Permit: Variance:	Appeal:					
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PETITIONER'S ADDRESS: 70 HISHCARD AVENUE, SOMENVILLE MY 02143						
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 6 SQC rements Streg 6						
TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: Residential Zoning district: B						
REASON FOR PETITION:						
Additions	New Structure					
Change in Use/Occupancy	Parking					
Conversion to Addi'l Dwelli	ng Unit's Sign					
Dormer	Subdivision					
Other:						
allowed under Cambridge Institutional 22 room Chances to the Structure Sections of Zoning Ordinance CITED: Article 4 Section 4.31 i (3) Article Section	Intronal use repulsations to I Lodging Home. No Physical Will be made Lodging House use					
Article Section						
Applicants for a Variance must complete Pages 1-5 Applicants for a Special Permit must complete Pages 1-4 and 6 Applicants for an Appeal to the BZA of a Zoning determination by the Inspectional Services Department must attach a statement concerning the reasons for the appeal						
Original Signature(s):	(Petitioner(s)/Owner)					
Address:	Mark Rolerick (Print Name) 70 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02/43					
Tel. No.:	617-230-3674					
E-Mail Add	iress: markmyreattor@yahoo.com					

Date:



6 Sacramento St.

156-2 CUNHA, JOHN H., JR. & CATHERINE RONDEAU 8 SACRAMENTO ST. CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

156-23-24-63 LESLEY COLLEGE 29 EVERETT STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

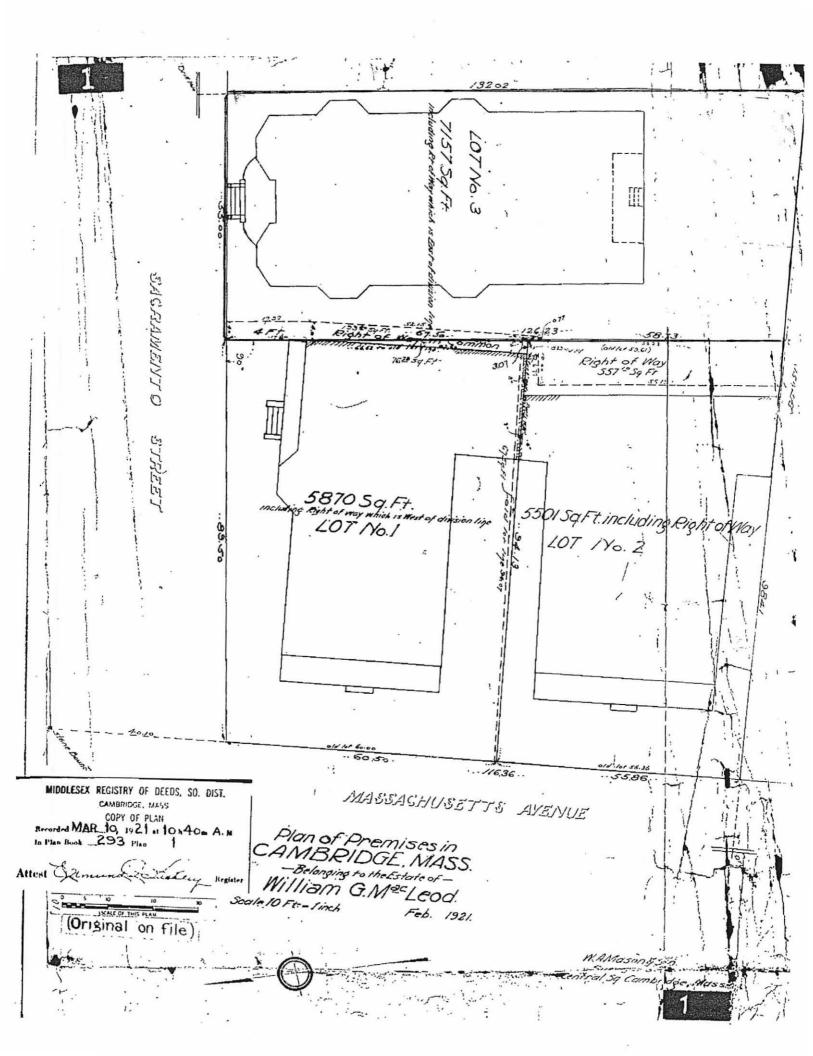
156-99 PRELLWITZ, WENDY 3 1/2 WENDELL ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 155-42 1685 MASS AVE LLC 626 MAIN ST ACTON, MA 01720

156-25 WONDER TOAD LLC, 20 LARCH ST. BOSTON, MA 02135

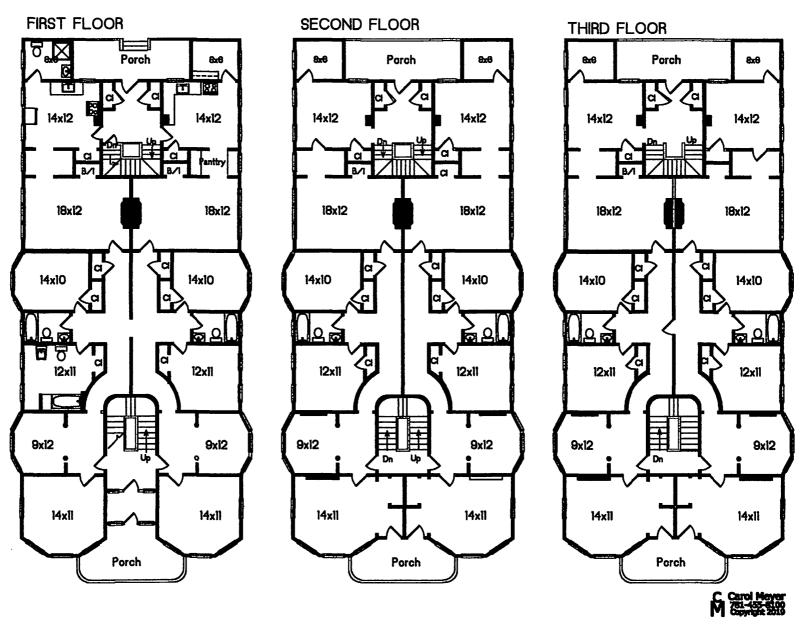
156-70 HOGSTADIUS, ANN-CHARLOTTE, TRUSTEE THE ANN-CHARLOTTE HOGSTADIUS TR 10 SACRAMENTO ST CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138 CAMBRIDGE IVY INN C/O MARK RODERICK, MANAGER 70 HIGHLAND AVENUE SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

156-68 ROSE REALTY LLC, 1675 MASSACHUSETTS AVE CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

155-30-43
PRESIDENT & FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE
C/O HARVARD REAL ESTATE INC.
HOLYOKE CENTER - ROOM #1000
1350 MASS AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138-3895



6 Sacramento Street Cambridge, MA



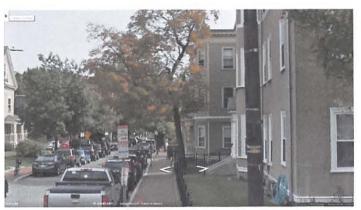
This drawing is an artistic rendering intended for marketing purposes only. The dimensions and/or square footage are approximate and should be verified by an independent source. This drawing is copyright protected and therefore licensed for use by those named on the floor plan.

This seeming to be absorbed in control properties on anticacture currence on the control of the

6 Sacramento St, Cambridge



View from Mass Ave towards Sacramento St Property is the second on the right



View from Mass Ave into Sacramento Property is the second on the right



of Sacramento St towards Mass Ave Property is the second on the left - behind the tree (Harvard College buildings on the right - across from Property)



6 Sacramento St - the Property

6 Sacramento St, Cambridge



Handicap Ramp - located in the parking area



Just One Gas Meter for the Property

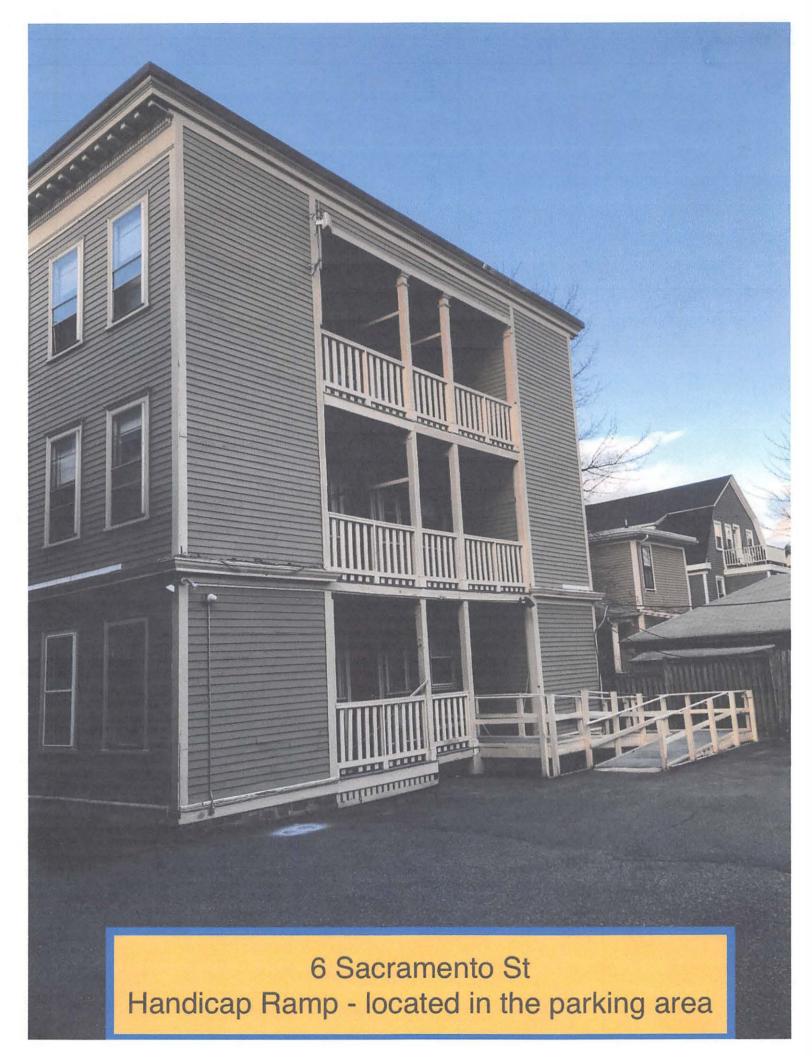


6 Sacramento St - the Property



Just One Electric Meter for the Property

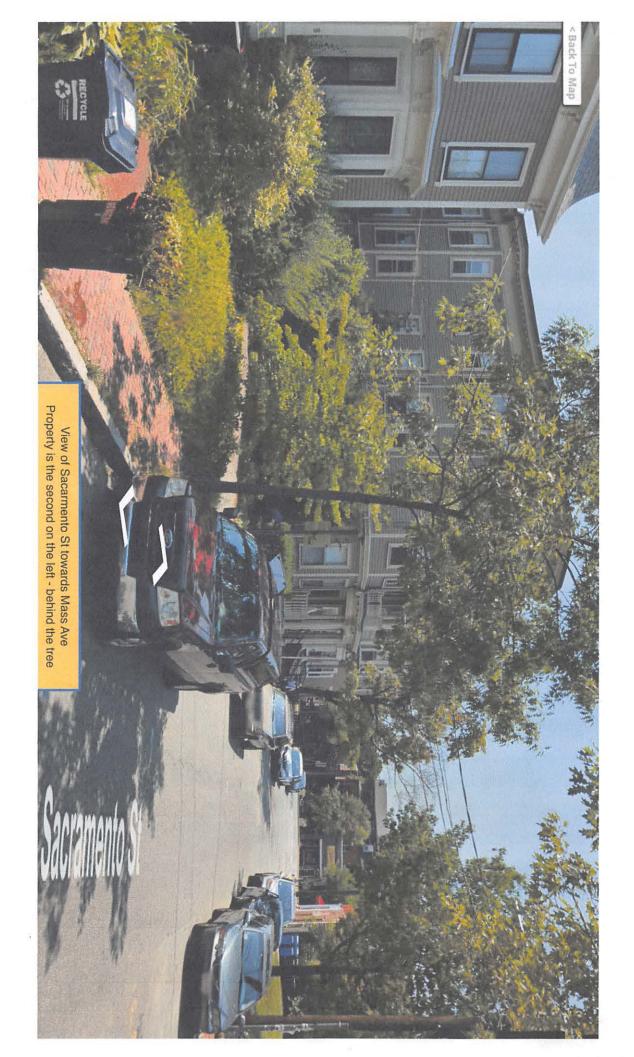


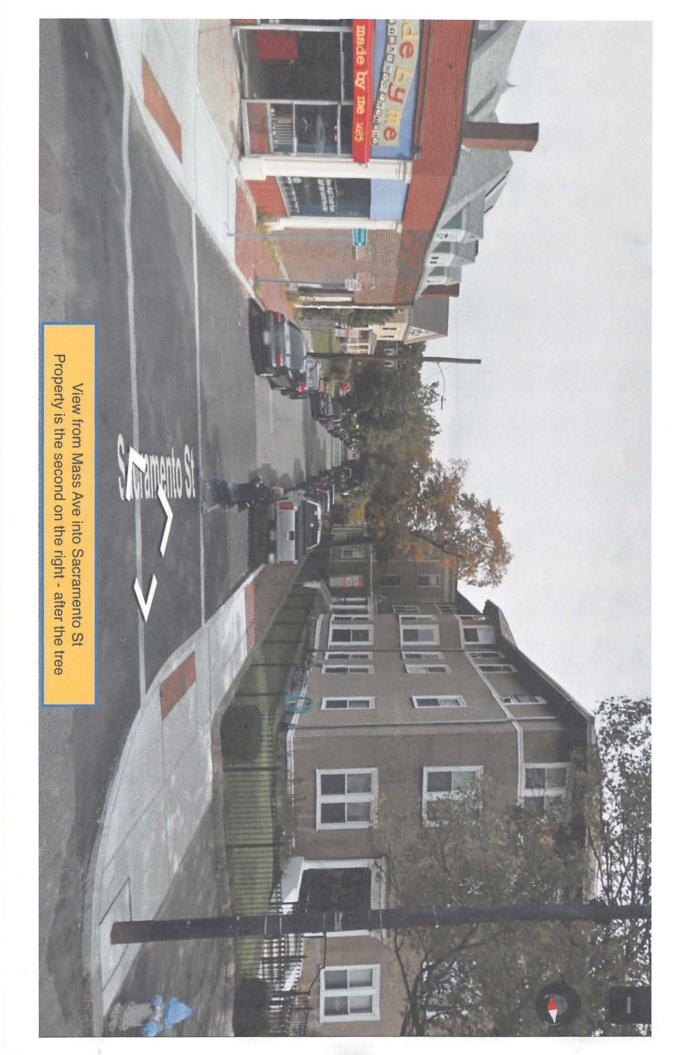


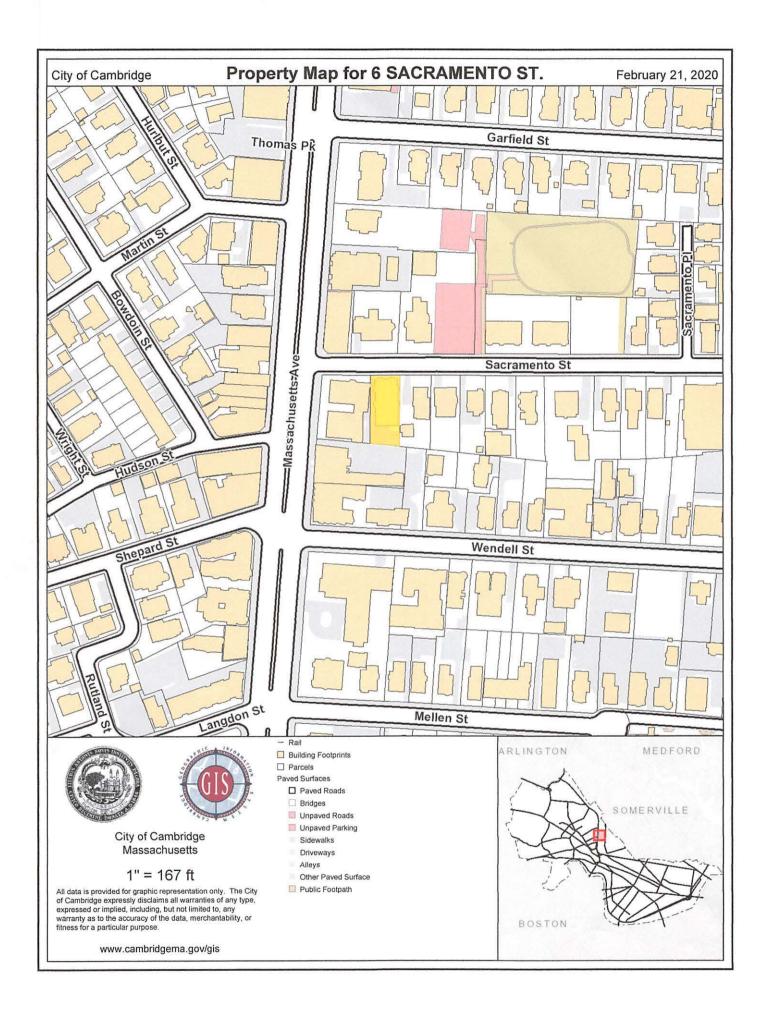












Mark Roderick Cambridge Ivy Inn 70 Highland Ave Somerville, MA 02143

April 10, 2020

Ranjit Singanayagam Commissioner of I.S.D. City of Cambridge, MA ranjits@cambridgema.gov

RE: 6 Sacramento Street, BZA-017271-2020

Dear Ranilt,

Given the scare and uncertainty of the current coronavirus pandemic, and the City communications of March 17 that the City closed all Municipal buildings and Offices until further notice, we suspended our pursuit of the BZA meeting.

We understand that your department has spent some efforts towards this case already. But, given the circumstances, we would greatly appreciate if you could issue a partial refund of our Application for Conversion-Relief fee amount of \$5,937.50 - invoice number 00105343.

Thank you very much Ranjit, and stay safe.

Mark Roderick

617-230-3674

CC: Maria Pacheco

CITY OF CAMBRIDG.

Massachusetts BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL 831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA. 617) 349-6100

April 15, 2020

Cambridge Ivy Inn C/o Mark Roderick, Manager 70 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02143

RE: 6 Sacramento Street - BZA-017271-2020

Dear Mr. Roderick,

I am writing to you in regard to your above up-coming Board of Zoning Appeal Hearing.

At this time the City will not be holding any non-essential public meetings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the City Manager's closure of all City buildings to non-essential business. On April 3, 2020, the Governor signed into law Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 ("Act"), which extends all land use permitting deadlines until after the State of Emergency is lifted. In light of the extensions provided for in the Act and the closure of City buildings, at this time the Board of Zoning Appeal will be rescheduling all public hearings in accordance with the extensions permitted under the Act. You will receive notice of the new date, once the hearing is rescheduled.

Sincerely

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Maria Pacheco

Administrative Assistant

Pacheco, Maria

From:

Jack Cunha < cunha@cunhaholcomb.com>

Sent:

Monday, April 27, 2020 7:00 PM

To:

Pacheco, Maria

Cc:

Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius; anncharlotte01@yahoo.com; Karl Frieden;

suefried@comcast.net; wendyprellwitz@gmail.com

Subject:

CASE NO. BZA-017271-2020, 6 Sacramento Street

Ms. Pacheco,

First, it is ambiguous if there is to be a hearing on 4/30 or not. The first notice on the web page states the hearing has been cancelled:

CANCELLED Board of Zoning Appeal Agenda

7:00 PM - 11:30 PM Thursday, April 30, 2020

Board of Zoning Appeals public hearings have been rescheduled pursuant to Section 17(b)(v) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, and will be rescheduled for a date after the Governor's state of emergency is lifted in accordance with Section 17(b) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. Please check this website regularly for updates to the Board's schedule.

Then, immediately underneath, it says,

The Board of Zoning Appeal will hold a Public Meeting, THURSDAY – APRIL 30, 2020, in the Sullivan Chambers, City Hall. This meeting will be accessed remotely by video and a public link will be posted on the Inspectional Services Website.

While I strongly suspect the meeting is cancelled, could you tell us whether it is or not?

Second, we vehemently object to this variance being granted.

At 8 Sacramento Street, we are the direct abutters, who have suffered for 34 years as neighbors to Lesley's dormitory at 6 Sacramento Street. In October 1986, when we moved in, Lesley told us that it would be selling 6 Sacramento within a few years. Three and a half decades later, we were delighted to hear it was for sale, and we would have real neighbors.

We were devastated to hear that the proposed project was a lodging house with 22 bedrooms. The application states, "The present use has worked harmoniously with the neighborhood for 30 years." It is difficult to know from whence that "information" derives, since the applicant did not speak to us until after the petition was filed. Harmonious? Oh yes, constant noise until the wee hours of the morning, light pollution at night, students and their parents using/blocking our driveway, cigarette butts, condoms, trash in our yard, traffic, snow removal services piling snow and ice on our sidewalk and there is much more, consistent with living next to people who have no investment in the community.

While the petitioner seeks to portray this application as a replacement of what was there with essentially the same thing, it is not. Let us just consider the restraints imposed upon the behavior of

students vis a vis the university, where their conduct had potential disciplinary ramifications, as opposed to 22 individuals in a tight space who answer to no one.

There are 48 windows facing us; the building is about five feet from the property line, and about 30 feet from our house. The property manager from Lesley told us that he knew how hard it must have been to have the dorm across our home when he announced that they were selling. In February, when we met with Mr. Roderick at his request, we invited him to the house, where we offered him coffee sitting around the kitchen table. In the course of the conversation, when we told him that his plan to have an air conditioner in every room would be an unsupportable noise nuisance, that is, 12 air conditioners blasting away 30 feet from bedroom windows, he said he had no choice because it would be legally required, which I believe is not true. When I suggested he might be mistaken, he promised to "look into it" and get back to us. It must have slipped his mind. Over two months later, we have yet to hear from him.

We are almost surrounded by institutional and commercial use - in the rear, the parking lots for the Cambridge Common, Lesley's new dorm and parking lot on Wendell Street; across the street, the Harvard residence at 3 Sacramento, and the Guidance Center, with its parking large lot, reserved for its use. Now, rather than restore real residential use on one side, the petitioner seeks to impose short-term rentals, in other words leasing once more to people who have no stake in their neighbors, so to that extent it does recapitulate, as the petitioner states, the Lesley era experience. And, it is year round. At least with Lesley, we had a respite most summers. While it was cumbersome at best, we could call Lesley Security when matters really got out of hand. The notion of calling the Cambridge Police incessantly is even less appealing than calling Lesley Security.

When we met with Mr. Roderick, he told us that there are no other financially feasible alternatives for him other than a 22 room boarding house, given the purchase price from Lesley.

A root problem is manifest. As a non-profit, on a building for which it paid no taxes, Lesley seeks to maximize its profit, on the sale of which it will pay no taxes, with no regard for the community. The asking price apparently dictates this overburdensome usage. This is pure arrogance and greed by a "charitable institution." We know proposals were made to Lesley, which provided for significantly less density, but rather than accept a merely huge profit, Lesley opted for rapacious profit over community. While the terms of any sale are not within this Board's purview, a rejection of this variance request will hopefully send a message.

The petitioner specifically states that he will make no changes or improvements to the building, which needs quite a lot of work. It seems that the petitioner does not care about the neighborhood, but simply wants to establish a cash cow business. It's a shame that he does not want to restore the building, which will only deteriorate further. He asserts to the city that this project will provide housing for workers, and it is not clear this is true, but if so, this is not a solution. Seeking our support, he told us that he would rent to "professors, graduate students and professionals." However, he also said each room would share a bathroom with three other rooms. The logistics do not conform to this intended market. Simply put, professors, graduate students and professionals will not a single rent room which shares a bathroom with three other rooms. To assert otherwise, begs credulity. Again we have reason to doubt the sincerity of what we were told.

Even if permitted for one resident only per room, and the petitioner at no point addresses this, people have friends and guests. On any given evening and on weekends throughout the day, there could easily be 50-60 people in that rooming house, and overnight up to 40 or more. The noise burden on the neighbors is evident, but also, where are they going to park? The petitioner says nothing about parking, except to note on the application there are three spaces for 22 rooms. Parking is already at

a premium, given the amount of institutional use on the street. At least when it was a dorm, the most egregious of the residents therein blocking neighboring driveways occurred a few days each Fall, and again each Spring, when the students moved in or out, not 365 days a year as will happen when 22 or more people seek a place to park, day and night.

The petitioner states hardship derives from size and configuration of the lot making it financially untenable to change the building to conform it to single-family use. I may be mistaken, but my understanding is that the zoning is for two-family use, not the straw man one-family asserted. He asserts a financial hardship, not a variance amenable one. The building was constructed as a six-family, two units to each of three floors, which means it would not need the major demolition and reconstruction the petitioner claims is impossible to make it conform to a reasonable use. While I do not know how many kitchens still exist, if any, or even how many petitioner proposes for this rooming house, if any, but my understanding is that there may now be one per floor. Even if there are now none, the building could readily be converted to a triple-decker, or more reasonably restored to the original six units; under current law each such proposal would also need a variance, but at least a sensible one, restoring to the neighborhood residents who have a stake in the community.

In short, this plan is abhorrent, without even considering the danger to public health this rooming house would pose, to both rooming house residents and neighbors alike, during the current pandemic, with 22 people shoe-horned into a building designed for six units. The neighborhood does not need a tenement.

Jack Cunha & Catherine Rondeau

8 Sacramento Street

John H. Cunha Jr. 617-523-4300 cunha@cunhaholcomb.com

CUNHA & HOLCOMB, P.C. 1 State Street, Suite 500 Boston, MA 02109-3507 https://cunhaholcomb.com

Pacheco, Maria Karl Frieden < KFrieden@cost.org> From: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:39 PM Sent: To: Pacheco, Maria Cc: Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius; suefried@comcast.net; wendyprellwitz@gmail.com; Jack Subject: RE: CASE NO. BZA-017271-2020, 6 Sacramento Street Ms. Pacheco, We also concur with all the concerns listed below by our long-time neighbors (over 25 years) Jack and Catherine at 8 Sacramento Street. This variance request for a lodging house with 22 bedrooms is completely out of character with our neighborhood, inconsistent with any prior or intended uses of the property, and not supported at all by the limited parking places available at the property. We strongly object to this variance request. Karl and Susan Frieden 12 Sacramento Street From: Ann-charlotte H <anncharlotte01@yahoo.com> Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:58 PM To: mpacheco@cambridgema.gov; Jack Cunha <cunha@cunhaholcomb.com> Cc: Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius <anncharlotte@destinyagents.com>; Karl Frieden <KFrieden@cost.org>; suefried@comcast.net; wendyprellwitz@gmail.com Subject: Re: CASE NO. BZA-017271-2020, 6 Sacramento Street Dear Ms. Pacheo. I concur with all the concerns my neighbors at 8 Sacramento Street have outlined below. I strongly object to this variance request. Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius 10 Sacramento Street

Ms. Pacheco,

First, it is ambiguous if there is to be a hearing on 4/30 or not. The first notice on the web page states the hearing has been cancelled:

On Monday, April 27, 2020, 04:00:13 PM PDT, Jack Cunha <cunha@cunhaholcomb.com> wrote:

CANCELLED Board of Zoning Appeal Agenda

7:00 PM - 11:30 PM Thursday, April 30, 2020

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Jack Cunha & Catherine Rondeau

8 Sacramento Street

John H. Cunha Jr.

617-523-4300

cunha@cunhaholcomb.com

Cunha & Holcomb, P.C.

1 State Street, Suite 500

Boston, MA 02109-3507

https://cunhaholcomb.com

Pacheco, Maria

From:

Ann-charlotte H <anncharlotte01@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Monday, April 27, 2020 8:58 PM

To: Cc:

Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius; Karl Frieden; suefried@comcast.net;

wendyprellwitz@gmail.com

Pacheco, Maria; Jack Cunha

Subject:

Re: CASE NO. BZA-017271-2020, 6 Sacramento Street

Dear Ms. Pacheo,

I concur with all the concerns my neighbors at 8 Sacramento Street have outlined below. I strongly object to this variance request.

Ann-Charlotte Hogstadius 10 Sacramento Street

On Monday, April 27, 2020, 04:00:13 PM PDT, Jack Cunha <cunha@cunhaholcomb.com> wrote:



Ms. Pacheco.

First, it is ambiguous if there is to be a hearing on 4/30 or not. The first notice on the web page states the hearing has been cancelled:

CANCELLED Board of Zoning Appeal Agenda

7:00 PM - 11:30 PM Thursday, April 30, 2020

Board of Zoning Appeals public hearings have been rescheduled pursuant to Section 17(b)(v) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, and will be rescheduled for a date after the Governor's state of emergency is lifted in accordance with Section 17(b) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. Please check this website regularly for updates to the Board's schedule.

Then, immediately underneath, it says,

The Board of Zoning Appeal will hold a Public Meeting, THURSDAY – APRIL 30, 2020, in the Sullivan Chambers, City Hall. This meeting will be accessed remotely by video and a public link will be posted on the Inspectional Services Website.

While I strongly suspect the meeting is cancelled, could you tell us whether it is or not?

Second, we vehemently object to this variance being granted.

At 8 Sacramento Street, we are the direct abutters, who have suffered for 34 years as neighbors to Lesley's dormitory at 6 Sacramento Street. In October 1986, when we moved in, Lesley told us that it would be selling 6 Sacramento within a few years. Three and a half decades later, we were delighted to hear it was for sale, and we would have real neighbors.

We were devastated to hear that the proposed project was a lodging house with 22 bedrooms. The application states, "The present use has worked harmoniously with the neighborhood for 30 years." It is difficult to know from whence that "information" derives, since the applicant did not speak to us until after the petition was filed. Harmonious? Oh yes, constant noise until the wee hours of the morning, light pollution at night, students and their parents using/blocking our driveway, cigarette butts, condoms, trash in our yard, traffic, snow removal services piling snow and ice on our sidewalk and there is much more, consistent with living next to people who have no investment in the community.

While the petitioner seeks to portray this application as a replacement of what was there with essentially the same thing, it is not. Let us just consider the restraints imposed upon the behavior of students *vis a vis* the university, where their conduct had potential disciplinary ramifications, as opposed to 22 individuals in a tight space who answer to no one.

There are 48 windows facing us; the building is about five feet from the property line, and about 30 feet from our house. The property manager from Lesley told us that he knew how hard it must have been to have the dorm across our home when he announced that they were selling. In February, when we met with Mr. Roderick at his request, we invited him to the house, where we offered him coffee sitting around the kitchen table. In the course of the conversation, when we told him that his plan to have an air conditioner in every room would be an unsupportable noise nuisance, that is, 12 air conditioners blasting away 30 feet from bedroom windows, he said he had no choice because it would be legally required, which I believe is not true. When I suggested he might be mistaken, he promised to "look into it" and get back to us. It must have slipped his mind. Over two months later, we have yet to hear from him.

We are almost surrounded by institutional and commercial use - in the rear, the parking lots for the Cambridge Common, Lesley's new dorm and parking lot on Wendell Street; across the street, the Harvard residence at 3 Sacramento, and the Guidance Center, with its parking large lot, reserved for its use. Now, rather than restore real residential use on one side, the petitioner seeks to impose short-term rentals, in other words leasing once more to people who have no stake in their neighbors, so to that extent it does recapitulate, as the petitioner states, the Lesley era experience. And, it is year round. At least with Lesley, we had a respite most summers. While it was cumbersome at best, we could call Lesley Security when matters really got out of hand. The notion of calling the Cambridge Police incessantly is even less appealing than calling Lesley Security.

When we met with Mr. Roderick, he told us that there are no other financially feasible alternatives for him other than a 22 room boarding house, given the purchase price from Lesley.

A root problem is manifest. As a non-profit, on a building for which it paid no taxes, Lesley seeks to maximize its profit, on the sale of which it will pay no taxes, with no regard for the community. The asking price apparently dictates this overburdensome usage. This is pure arrogance and greed by a "charitable institution." We know proposals were made to Lesley, which provided for significantly less density, but rather than accept a merely huge profit, Lesley opted for rapacious profit over community. While the terms of any sale are not within this Board's purview, a rejection of this variance request will hopefully send a message.

The petitioner specifically states that he will make no changes or improvements to the building, which needs quite a lot of work. It seems that the petitioner does not care about the neighborhood, but simply wants to establish a cash cow business. It's a shame that he does not want to restore the building, which will only deteriorate further. He asserts to the city that this project will provide housing for workers, and it is not clear this is true, but if so, this is not a solution. Seeking our support, he told us that he would rent to "professors, graduate students and professionals." However, he also said each room would share a bathroom with three other rooms. The logistics do not conform to this intended market. Simply put, professors, graduate students and professionals will not a single rent room which shares a bathroom with three other rooms. To assert otherwise, begs credulity. Again we have reason to doubt the sincerity of what we were told.

Even if permitted for one resident only per room, and the petitioner at no point addresses this, people have friends and guests. On any given evening and on weekends throughout the day, there could easily be 50-60 people in that rooming house, and overnight up to 40 or more. The noise burden on the neighbors is evident, but also, where are they going to park? The petitioner says nothing about parking, except to note on the application there are three spaces for 22 rooms. Parking is already at a premium, given the amount of institutional use on the street. At least when it was a dorm, the most egregious of the residents therein blocking neighboring driveways occurred a few days each Fall, and again each Spring, when the students moved in or out, not 365 days a year as will happen when 22 or more people seek a place to park, day and night.

The petitioner states hardship derives from size and configuration of the lot making it financially untenable to change the building to conform it to single-family use. I may be mistaken, but my understanding is that the zoning is for two-family use, not the straw man one-family asserted. He asserts a financial hardship, not a variance amenable one. The building was constructed as a six-family, two units to each of three floors, which means it would not need the major demolition and reconstruction the petitioner claims is impossible to make it conform to a reasonable use. While I do not know how many kitchens still exist, if any, or even how many petitioner proposes for this rooming house, if any, but my understanding is that there may now be one per floor. Even if there are now none, the building could readily be converted to a triple-decker, or more reasonably restored to the original six units; under current law each such proposal would also need a variance, but at least a sensible one, restoring to the neighborhood residents who have a stake in the community.

In short, this plan is abhorrent, without even considering the danger to public health this rooming house would pose, to both rooming house residents and neighbors alike, during the current pandemic, with 22 people shoe-horned into a building designed for six units. The neighborhood does not need a tenement.

Jack Cunha & Catherine Rondeau

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