



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

LOUIS A. DePASQUALE
City Manager

LISA C. PETERSON
Deputy City Manager

September 11, 2019

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Commissioner Carol Gladstone
Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
One Ashburton Place, 15th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Sullivan Courthouse

Dear Commissioner Gladstone:

Please be advised that the City of Cambridge formally requests that the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (“DCAMM”) immediately take steps to address concerns that have been raised by the community about whether any asbestos or asbestos containing material (“ACM”) has been released or is at risk of being released at and around the former Edward J. Sullivan Courthouse at 40 Thorndike Street in East Cambridge.

It appears that there was a release of a hazardous material, reportedly ACM that has deteriorated and appears to have migrated beyond the envelope of the structure at the Courthouse. It was recently reported by a resident, and stated to our City Council, that material later found to contain 30% asbestos (ACM) was present in an area that was open to the outside and may have been present outside the building on Friday evening, August 31. It is our understanding that the DEP Emergency Response team were on site that afternoon and arranged for a contractor, NRC Environmental, to complete the safe collection of material that may have been ACM near this entrance of this gated bay door. We have been told that DEP staff then directed the complete closure of the bay door entrance with plywood and polyethylene sheeting.

The City has reported to DEP about this incident (copy attached) and requested a response to a number of questions and concerns that the City and its residents have expressed about this incident. In addition, I am asking DCAMM, as the owner of this deteriorated and blighted building, to take immediate steps to work closely with DEP to ensure that no harmful materials will be released and that this building will remain under full containment until complete remediation of hazards can be completed. I request that you immediately undertake an investigation of this matter and develop a plan for the urgent containment of the entire building such that it poses no health or safety risks to anyone.



Given the high level of concern expressed by members of the community about this matter, I would greatly appreciate receiving a response to this letter by the end of this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis A. DePasquale".

Louis A. DePasquale
City Manager

cc: Cambridge City Council