



January 7, 2009

To the members of the Cambridge City Council,  
In reference to the performance of City Manager Robert Healy -

In the spirit of full disclosure, please be aware that the City of Cambridge contracts with Cambridge Community Television to provide cable-related services to Cambridge residents, businesses and non-profit agencies.

As the Executive Director of CCTV, I have seen the City Manager's performance from a very particular vantage point - in his capacity as the Issuing Authority of the cable television license. In his planning for the first license in the early 1980's, as well as in the re-licensing in the late '90's, City Manager Healy has been a forceful advocate for the City and a tough negotiator. He is always well-informed and prepared - he studies the issues and pays great attention to detail. He has surrounded himself with a stellar team of professionals who are cognizant of and responsive to the needs of everyone in the City. We are heading into the third license renewal period since 1985, and I feel secure knowing that City Manager Healy will again be driving the process.

As a resident of Cambridge since 1981, I have seen a great many changes as a result of the City Manager's leadership. In spite of economic crises at the state and federal level, Cambridge has remained on solid financial footing. Our streets are safe and clean, the environment is good for residents, businesses and the higher education community. Cambridge remains the place in which everyone wants to live and work.

I strongly advocate for an extension of City Manager Robert Healy's contract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Fleischmann', with a long, sweeping underline.

Susan Fleischmann  
Executive Director



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Comments to the Cambridge City Council Government Operations and Rules Committee  
January 7, 2009  
Terrence F. Smith  
Director of Government Affairs  
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce

Honorable members of the Government Operations and Rules Committee, I am Terrence Smith, a Cambridge resident at 21 Manassas Avenue and I am the Director of Government Affairs with the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce at 859 Massachusetts Avenue.

There is a story about Tom L. Johnson, the great progressive Mayor of my hometown Cleveland, Ohio from 1901 to 1909. In the midst of a particularly difficult period in his administration a friend met him and, noting his peacefulness during this trying time, she asked how he could be so calm. In response he took a little worn brown card from his inside breast pocket and handed it to her. The card read

"The man who is worthy of being a leader of men will never complain of the stupidity of his helpers, of the ingratitude of mankind, nor the in-appreciation of the public.

"These things are all a part of the great game of life, and to meet them and not go down under them in discouragement and defeat is the final proof of power."

I mention this story not because Mayor Johnson is my favorite historic leader of a city and City Manager Healy is my favorite current city leader, not because I am often reminded of this story when watching the Manager do his job but because the work Mayor Johnson did in his eight years as Cleveland's Mayor established a foundation that served my home town well for almost 70 years and the work City Manager Healy has done in his three decades of service will serve Cambridge well into the future.

Cleveland's legacy is now tarnished because leaders who followed did not have the vision and abilities of Tom Johnson. We in Cambridge are fortunate that Robert Healy is willing to continue to serve as our Manager.

I mention legacy because the actions of any leader, whether around for a short or a long term, have consequences beyond the term a woman or man is in power. But a leader cannot just focus on legacy. The City Manager understands this and on a day to day basis Cambridge is one of the best run cities in this country. Tonight I thank the Council, the Manager and city staff for ensuring that each and every day, in ways small and large, those of us who live and work in Cambridge as well as those who visit are well served.

While the City Manager has built an administration that accomplishes the normal duties of city government well he is also a leader who looks to the future. Whether it is making investments to our roads, sewers and water system, improving or replacing city facilities,

or investing in human capital the Manager looks at how each decision will improve Cambridge today and in the future.

There is little any city can do to impact business cycles but cities can be prepared for those inevitable cycles. During his more than twenty years as Manager Bob Healy has guided Cambridge through the bad times while focusing on small changes that prepared the city when things got better.

Under City Manager Healy Cambridge has during times of prosperity prepared the city for the next downturn and in my observation Cambridge has been in a position to address each downturn, including the present, better than the last.

Today, while cities throughout the Commonwealth and throughout this nation are struggling Cambridge remains strong. While other cities reduce basic services, Cambridge does not. While other cities stop or delay necessary infrastructure projects, Cambridge does not. While other cities ask taxpayers to pay more for fewer services, Cambridge does not.

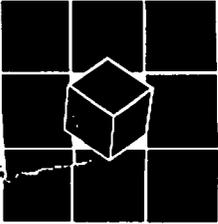
It is often mentioned that Cambridge is different and in these aspects it is great to be different. City Manager Robert Healy's leadership is an important and significant factor in Cambridge being in better fiscal condition, and thus different, than other cities.

Speaking in my role as a member of the Cambridge business community I can state that the strength of our City government, under the leadership of this Council and this City Manager, is a major factor in our City continuing to attract new business while existing businesses build and expand.

As a relatively new resident, my wife and I have only lived here for 15 years, I am thankful that I live in a city with such a strong commitment to excellence in providing services, commitment to investing in our future and focus on ensuring that the cost of these services continue to be affordable to once young now middle-aged residents and taxpayers like me and my wife.

The call of this meeting is to hear from the public regarding the evaluation of the City Manager. This member of the public believes that an objective evaluation of City Manager Robert Healy's service to this City during the term of his current contract, during his term as City Manager and during his decades of service to our community must result in a rating of excellent.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you this evening.



# CENTRAL SQUARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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December 29, 2008

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Vice Mayor Brian Murphy  
Councillor David P. Maher  
Government Operations and Rules Committee  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Re: Extension of Contract with Robert W. Healy, City Manager**

Gentlemen:

With reference to the possible extension of the tenure of City Manager Robert W. Healy, please be advised that my association wishes to go on record as being strongly supportive of retaining the services of the most capable City Manager that the City of Cambridge has ever had.

We have seen the transformation from a City that was in extremely poor financial condition at the beginning of Mr. Healy's term, to one of the strongest fiscal positions in the entire United States. With the triple AAA bond rating, the many major public works either finished or in the process, and a substantial balance in the City account, we are the envy of practically every community in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We attribute this successful status to the capable leadership of Mr. Healy and we certainly hope that he will be willing to provide that continued leadership for more years in the future.

I hope you will agree that a 25 year period of time "on the job", and with great success, should qualify him for having served well and without the need for further apprenticeship.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Barron

CFB/ljg

Oni H. Hanson

CPB/18