



## City of Cambridge

O-4  
AMENDED ORDER  
IN CITY COUNCIL  
February 24, 2014

### COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

- WHEREAS: Cambridge City Hall is the primary location in which City Councillors, City administrators, and members of the public are able to interact with one another, to discuss issues impacting the community, and to conduct City business; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long strived to make City Hall as open and as accessible to people as possible, and it has succeeded to an admirable degree. Whether people live or work in Cambridge, or whether they are visiting City Hall for other purposes, City Hall is freely open to the general public during normal business hours; and
- WHEREAS: Unlike many other city halls and public buildings throughout the Commonwealth, Cambridge has eschewed metal detectors and other, similar security measures in favor of having a more welcoming open-door policy. It has long been recognized that any safety issues can and will be addressed by the steady rotation of Cambridge Police officers who circulate throughout Central Square. The Cambridge Police Department has stated, on multiple occasions, that any calls placed from within City Hall for police intervention can usually be met within a matter of minutes; and
- WHEREAS: The professionalism, dedication, and swift response time of the Cambridge Police Department is not being called into question. Yet a concern nevertheless remains: should an incident requiring immediate police intervention occur, even waiting three minutes for the call to be placed to the Cambridge Police Department, for an officer to be dispatched, and for that officer to arrive inside City Hall could be the critical difference between a minor incident and something significantly more grievous; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Police Commissioner and other appropriate City personnel and then report back to the City Council on the feasibility of installing a permanent Cambridge Police Officer within City Hall to better ensure the safety of the public and the people who work within the building; and be it further

ORDERED: That this matter be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

In City Council February 24, 2014  
Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of seven  
members.

Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk

A true copy; *Donna P. Lopez*

ATTEST:-  
Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk

**COUNCILLOR KELLEY RECORDED IN THE NEGATIVE ON THIS MATTER.**

City of Cambridge

Richard C. Rossi • City Manager



Executive Department

Lisa C. Peterson • Deputy City Manager

April 16, 2014

Councillor Craig A. Kelley, Chair  
Councillor Dennis Carlone  
Councillor E. Denise Simmons  
Councillor Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.  
Public Safety Committee

Dear Councillors Kelley, Carlone, Simmons & Toomey:

Please find attached a response to Council Order No. 4, dated February 24, 2014, regarding the feasibility of permanently assigning a police officer at City Hall, received from Police Commissioner Robert C. Haas.

I am forwarding the response to your attention as directed by the Council Order.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard C. Rossi".

Richard C. Rossi  
Deputy City Manager

RCR/mec  
attachment

Cc: Mayor Maher  
Vice Mayor Benzan  
Councillor Cheung  
Councillor Mazen  
Councillor McGovern  
City Clerk Lopez



Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

# City of Cambridge Police Department

TELEPHONE  
(617) 349-3300

FAX  
(617) 349-3320

WEB  
[www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org)

Richard C. Rossi  
City Manager

To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager

From: Robert C. Haas, Police Commissioner

Date: April 1, 2014

Ref.: City Council Order #4, dated February 25, 2014

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to the above referenced City Council Order to explore the feasibility of permanently assigning an officer to City Hall, presumably during its operational hours. In preparation for the upcoming Public Safety Committee Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, being convened by City Councillor Kelley, I have formulated the following response for your consideration and review.

The department has maintained a very active presence of police officers in City Hall, principally by those who have been assigned to walking assignments in Central Square. These officers routinely perform self-initiated and directed patrol activities through City Hall during the course of the business day. These very same officers also perform similar checks at the Senior Center, the Alice Wolfe Community Center, and the Central Square Library as part of their normal patrol duties.

During the period beginning July 1, 2013 through the time of this report, officers performed these routine checks at City Hall for the purposes of visibility and to reassure the public and employees as well as checking the troublesome areas of the building a total of 461 times. These checks are normally performed at the time when City Hall first opens and commence during the course of the business day. The department has also assigned officers to be present when there might be concerns of a disturbance during the course of City Council meetings, which is not included in the number of self-initiated and directed patrol activities.

During this same period of time there were a total of forty-nine (49) calls for service, which would be categorized as being routine or non-emergency calls. Over this entire eight month period there were an additional thirty-five (35) more serious of calls for service, which involved

a disturbance, a person who was intoxicated, or medical calls, as compared to the 90,000 calls for service during this same time period. If you then were to couple the number of times that police officers report to City Hall on a regular basis to attend meetings or to conduct other business, it is probably the most visited site in the city apart from the Robert W. Healy Public Safety Complex.

What has proven to be particularly valuable in directing police officers to City Hall is when their visibility would have the greatest impact on quelling any potential disturbances, which large part is dependent upon the role of those who work in City Hall. It is their willingness to call the police whenever there is any indication of a potential problem or concern. There still seems to be reluctance on the part of some not to call the police, even if they call anonymously when they see situations which cause some degree of concern. In essence, a call to ECC actually directs police resources when and where they are most needed. It is also this data that we use in calculating when to have officers engage in directed patrol activities.

If the department were to make City Hall a stationary assignment for an officer during the regular business hours, it would represent an additional staffing requirement of three full-time equivalent positions on the day shift alone, and would have a further impact on the relieving shifts for the remaining hours that City Hall is open. If the staffing were required from the existing staffing levels, it would mean taking one of the two walking officers who are assigned to Central Square off their assignments, leaving the entire Central Square area with just one walking officer. As we worked with staffing levels in Central Square, we found that by keeping two walking officers devoted to Central Square during the day and first half shifts has had a significant impact in reducing the amount of disruptive behavior that had previously taking place in the Square. Reducing the staffing back to one lone officer would most certainly see a return of the disruptive behaviors that were once witnessed on a regular basis.

We believe between our present staffing assignments, the frequency of directed patrol activities that routinely take place, and city employees taking an active role in reporting suspicious or troubling activities would have the greatest impact toward enhancing the feeling of security by those who work or visit City Hall while maintaining our overall commitment to the Central Square area.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

# Public Safety in Public Buildings

16 April, 2014

# What is a “public building”

- Owned by public
- Open to public without keyed access
  - Partially open to public without keyed access
- Is enclosed

# REALLY???



1111

April 6th - 7th  
Saturdays 10am - 2pm @ 5 Collier Street 02139  
www.cambridgewinterfarmersmarket.com

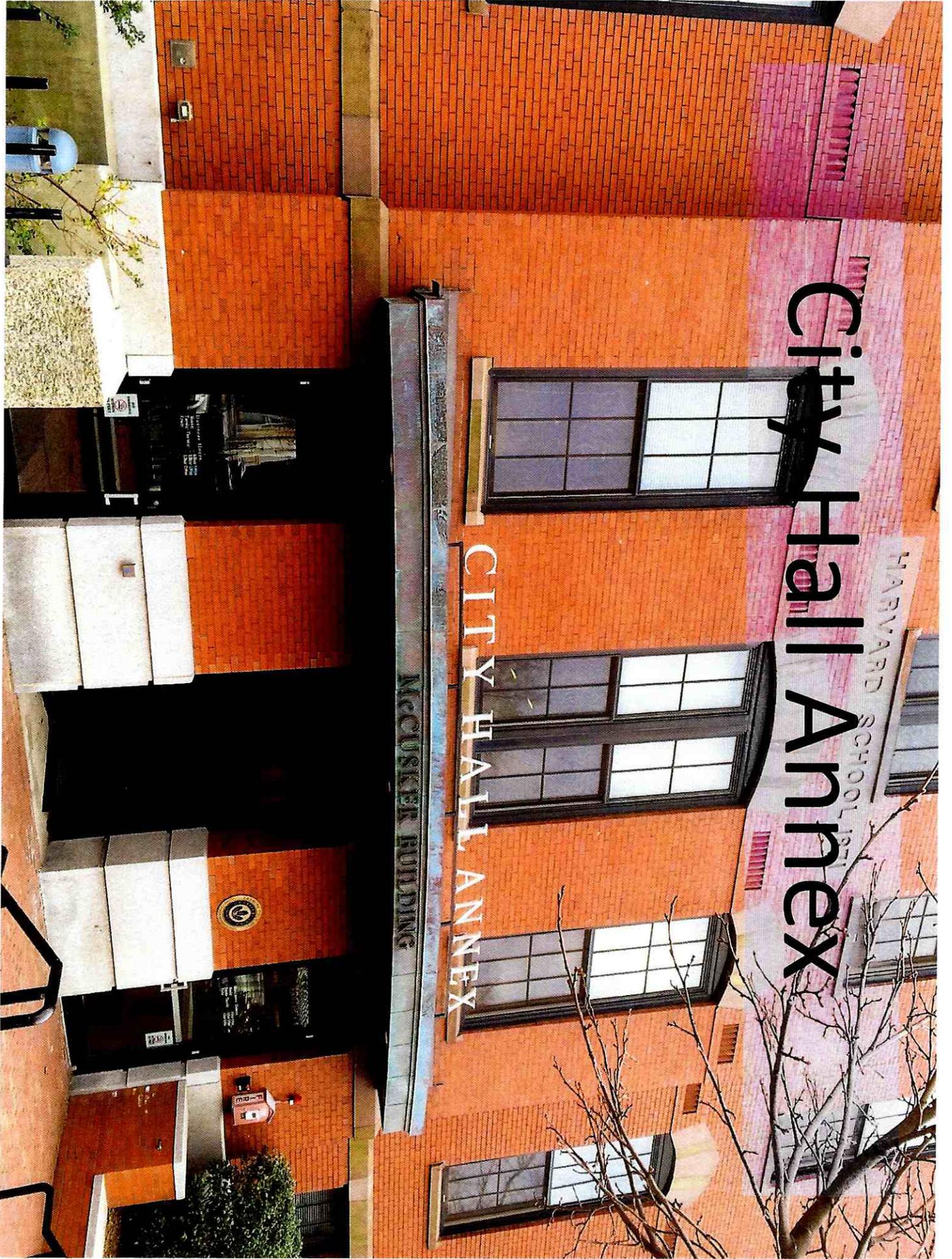
MAYOR: DAVID P. MAHER

# City Hall Annex

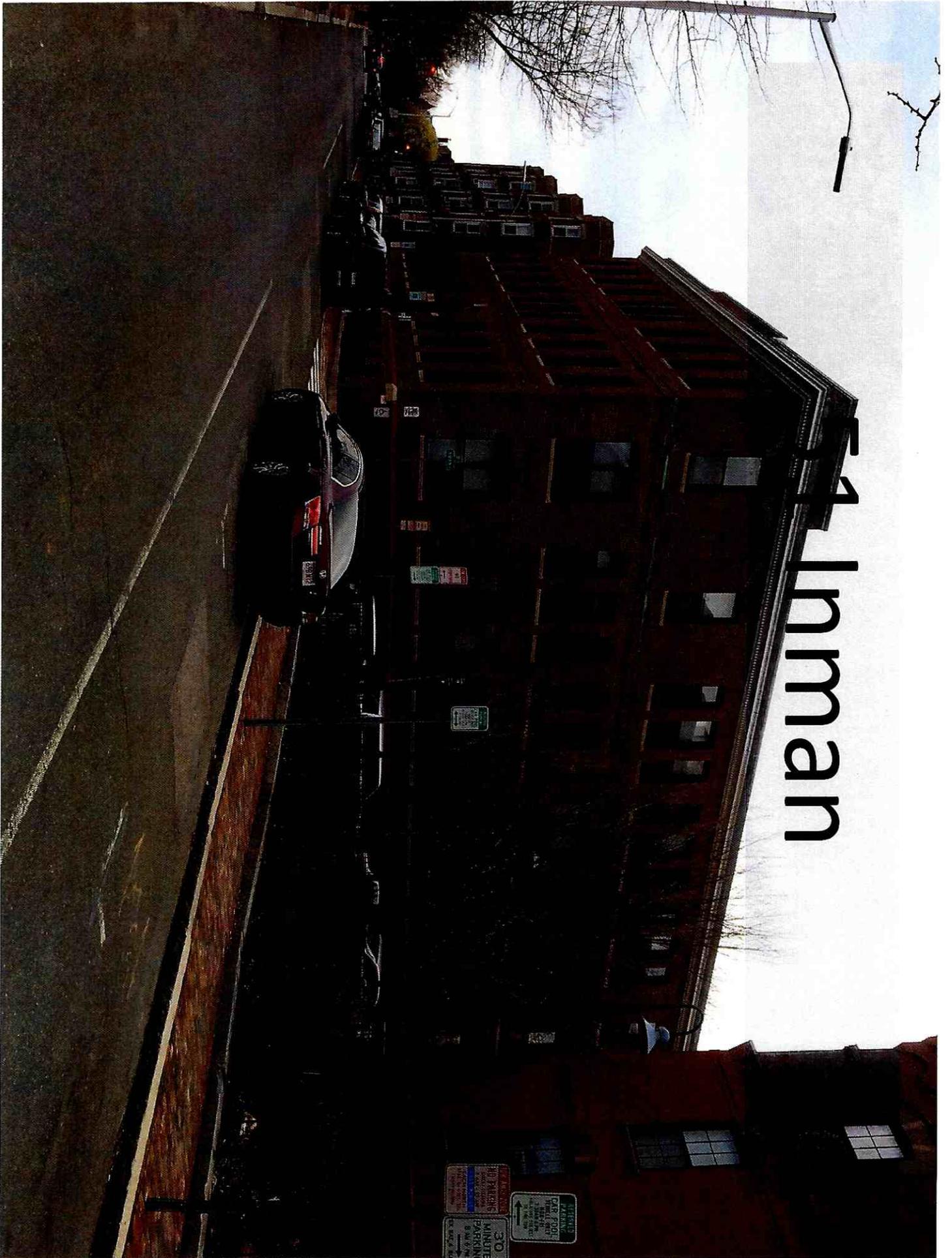
HARVARD SCHOOL 1871

CITY HALL ANNEX

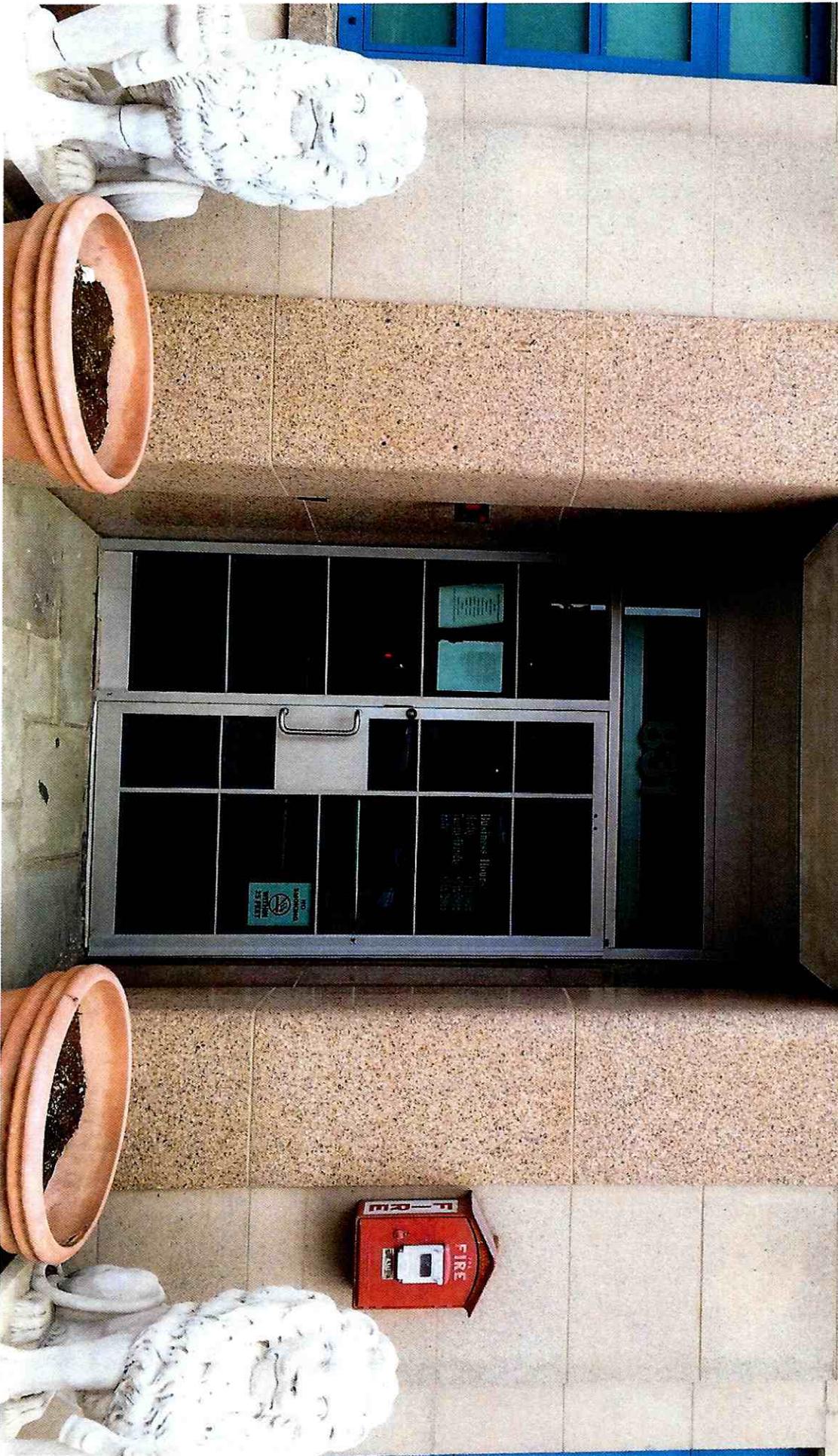
MCJUSKEE BUILDING



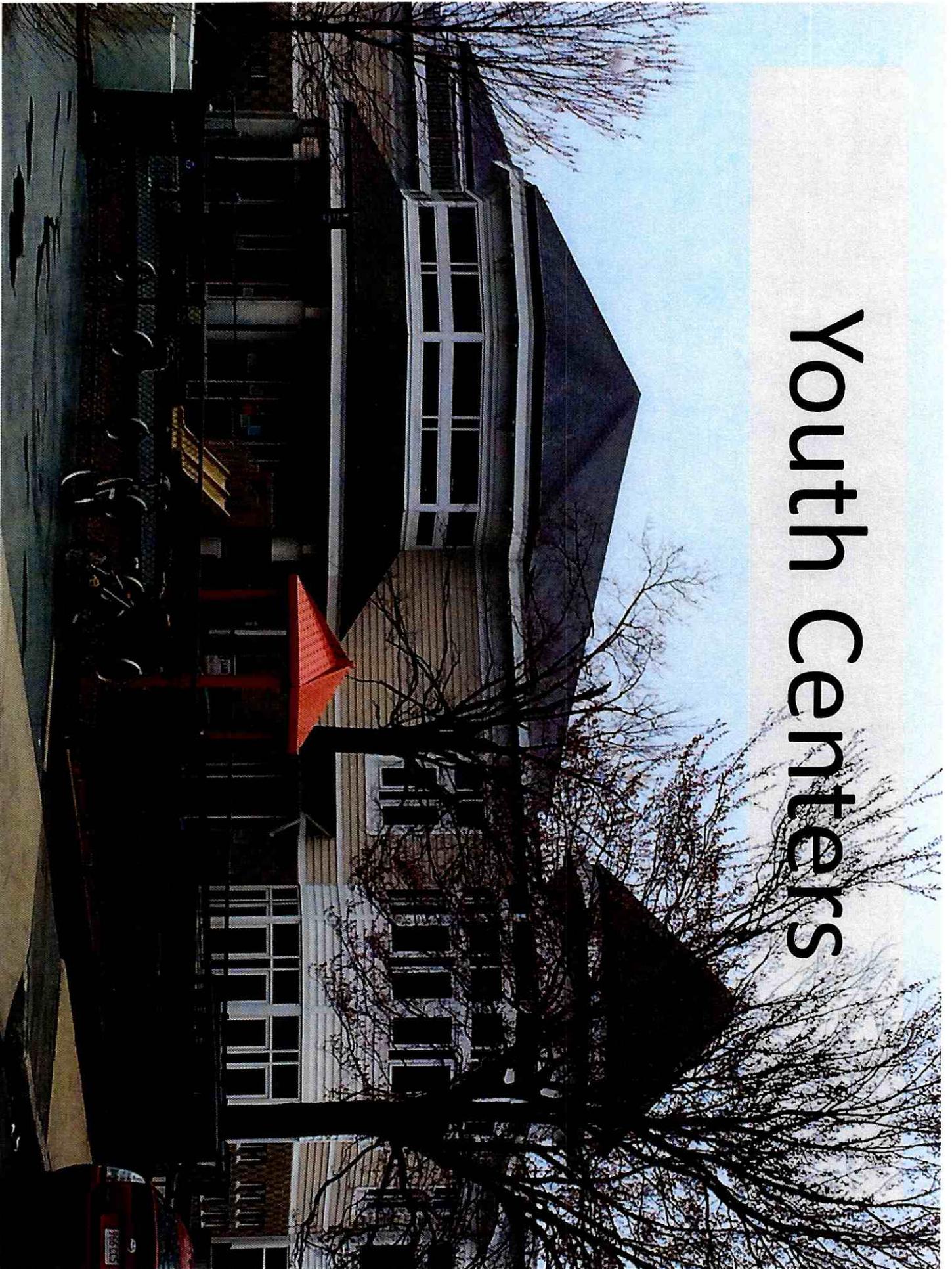
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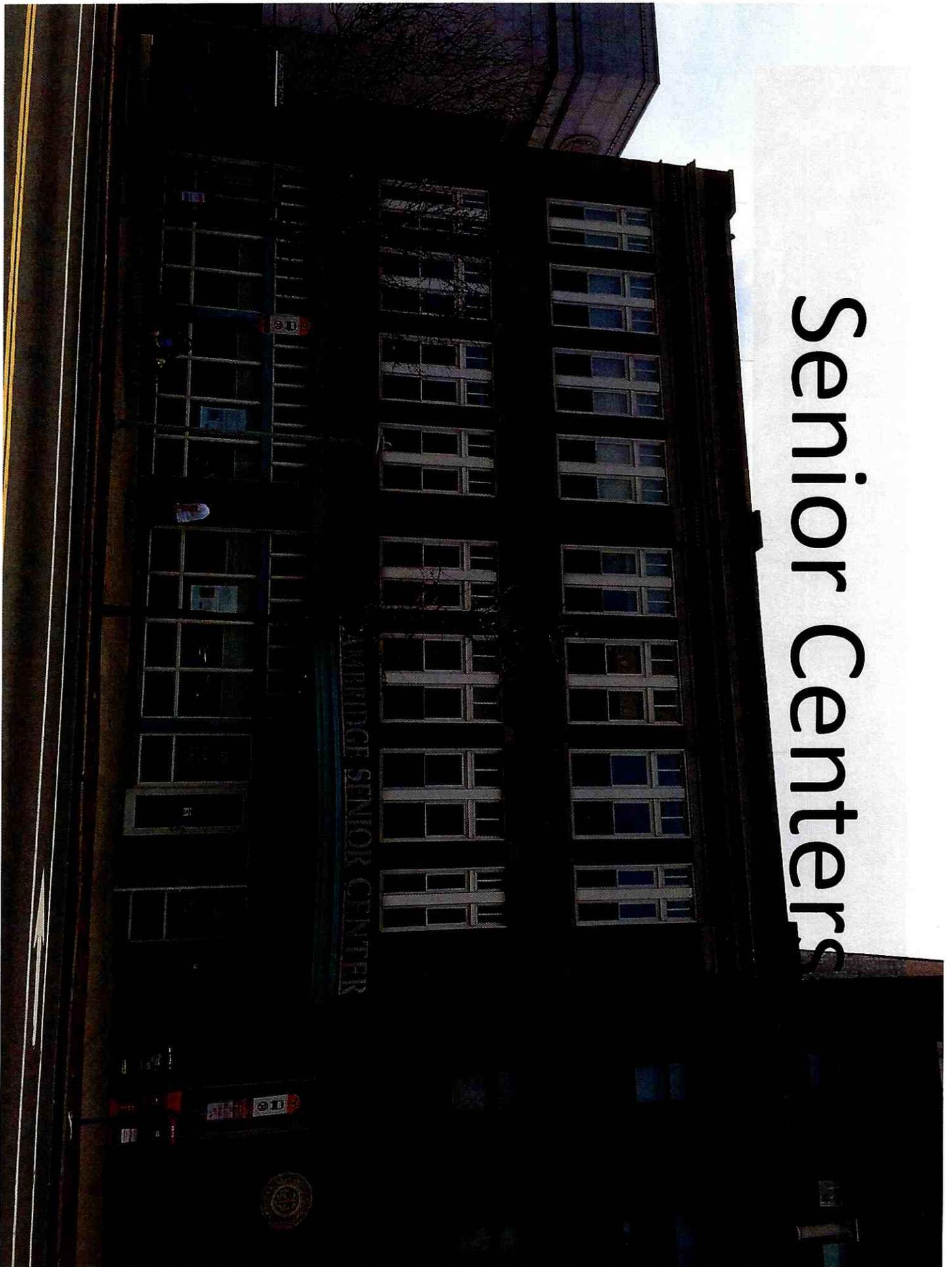
# Lombardi Building



# Youth Centers

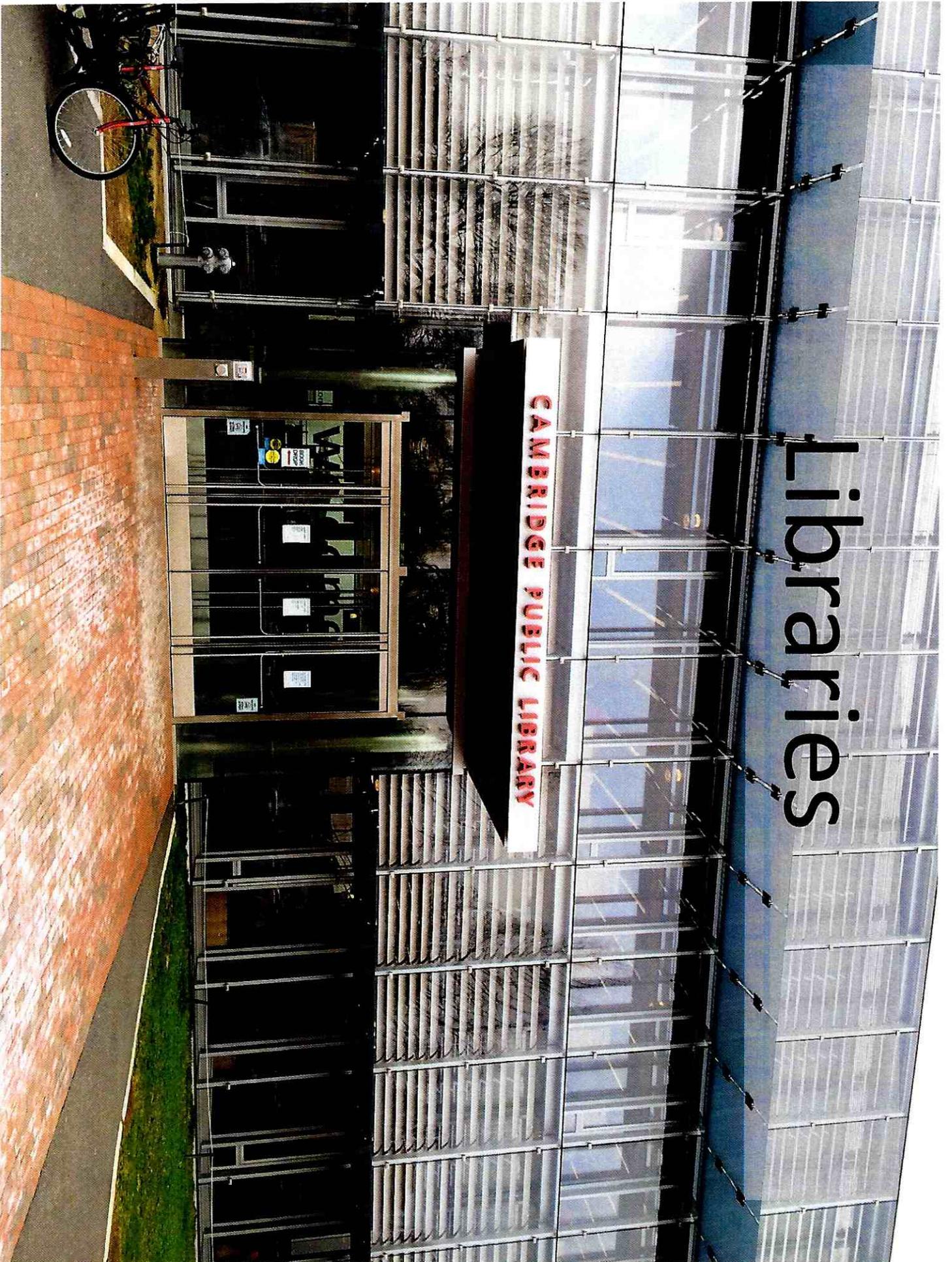


# Senior Centers



# Libraries

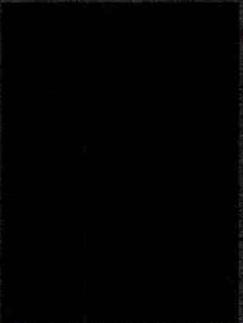
CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

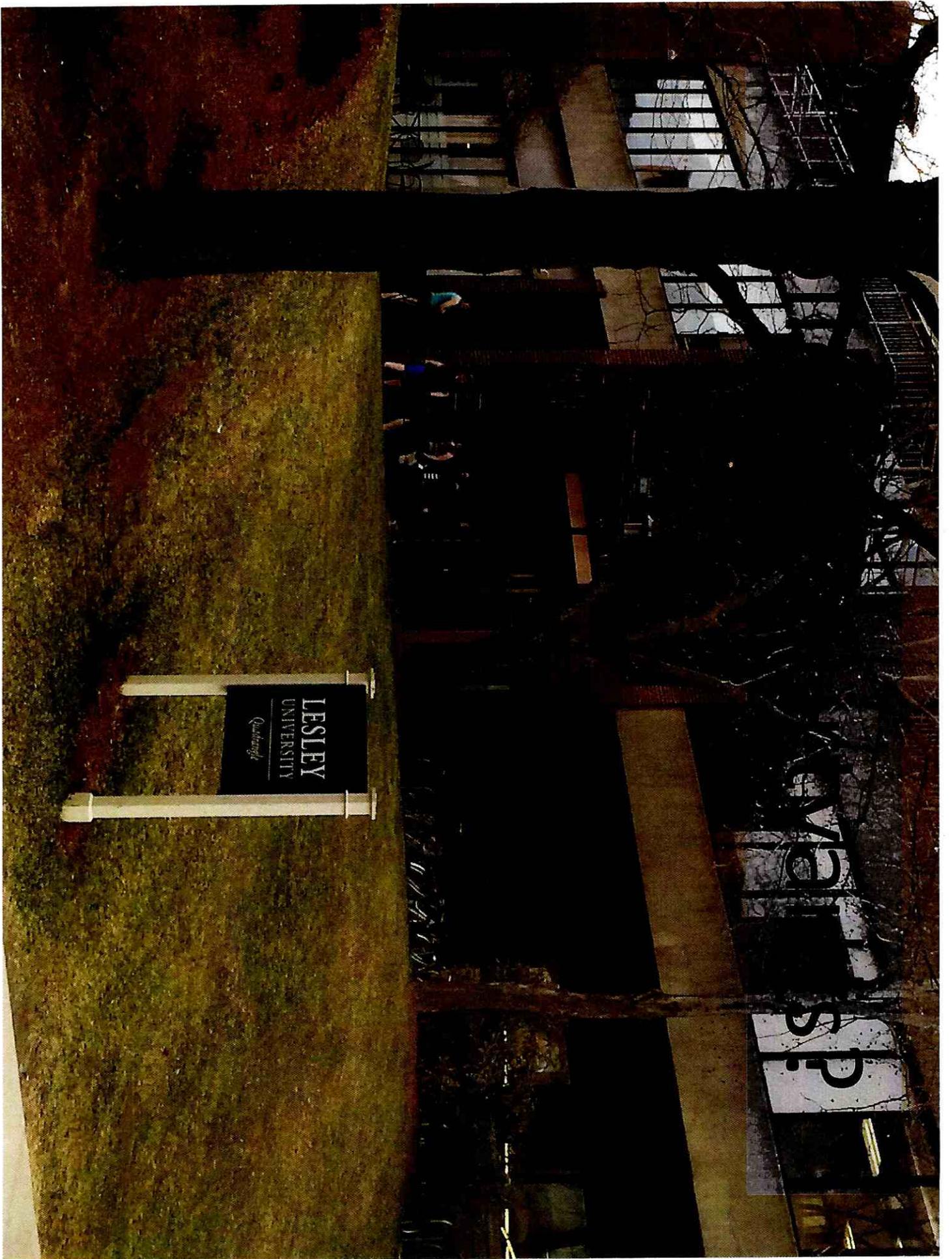


THE CAMBRIDGE  
RINGGE AND LATIN SCHOOL

Schools



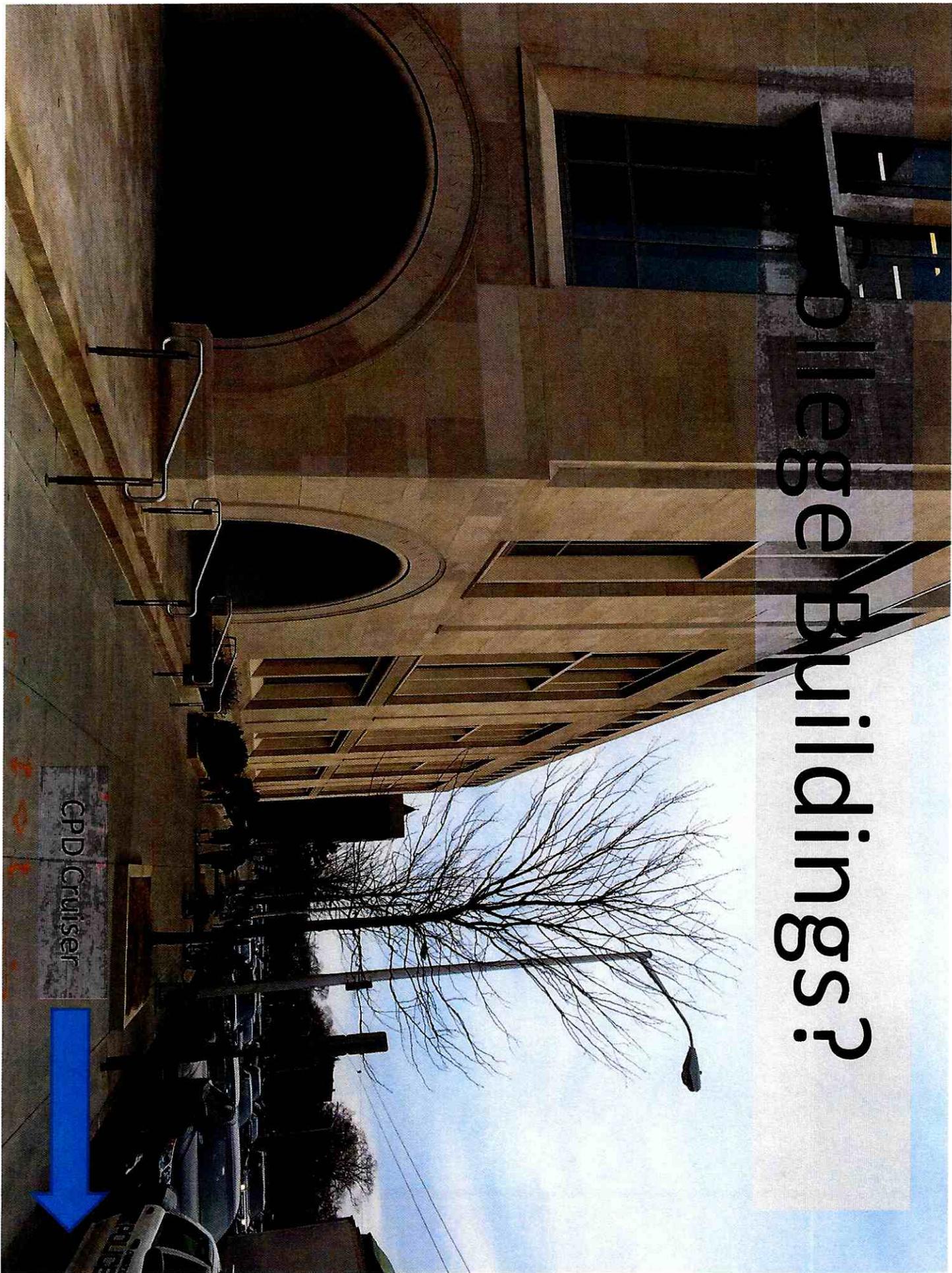




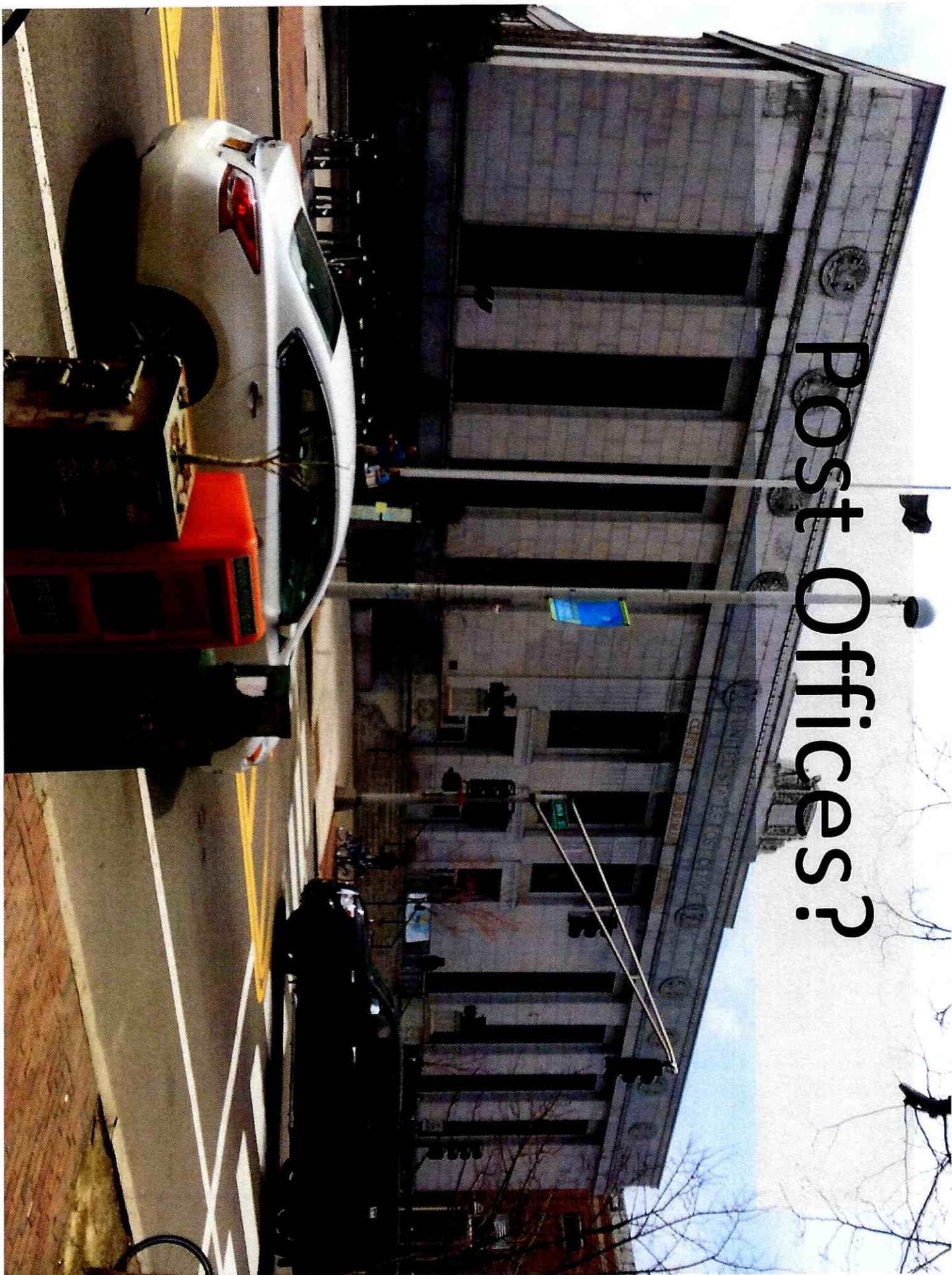
LESLEY  
UNIVERSITY  
*Overnight*

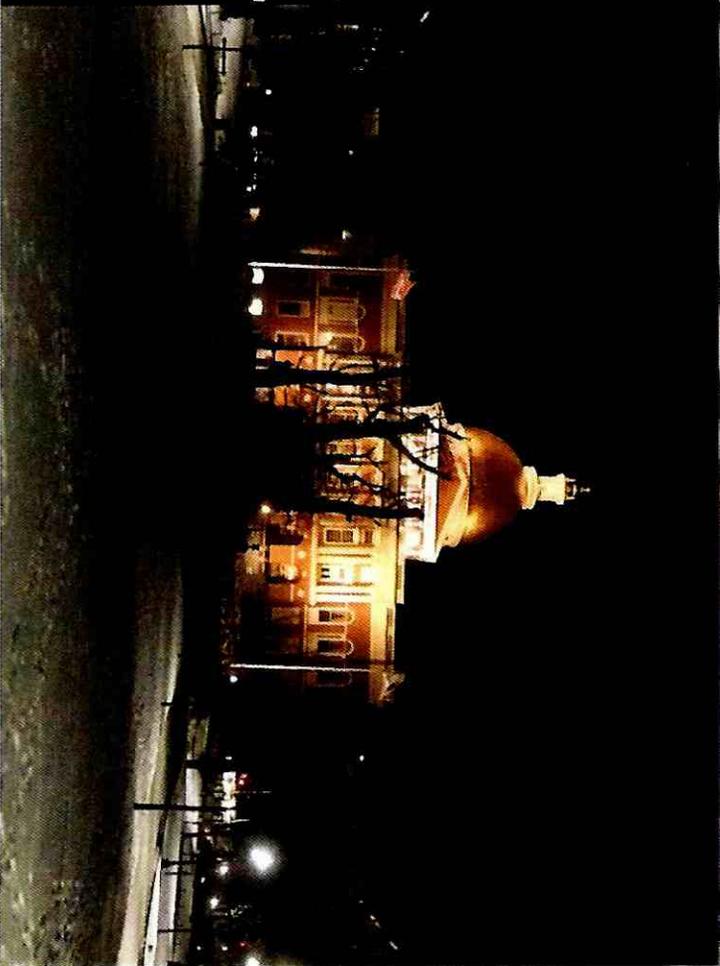
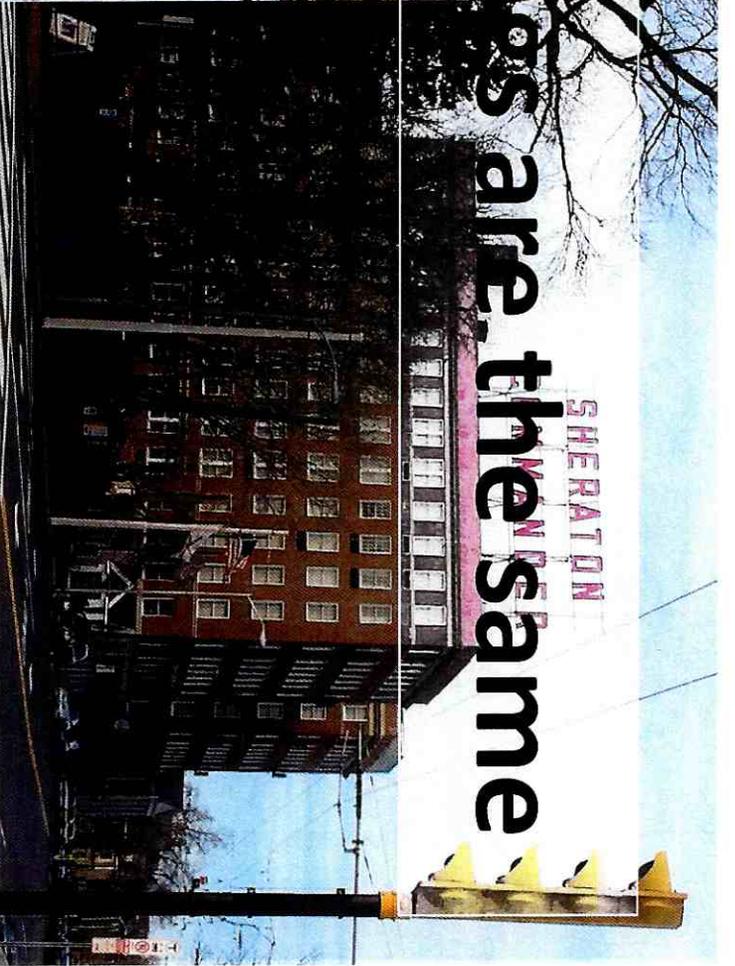
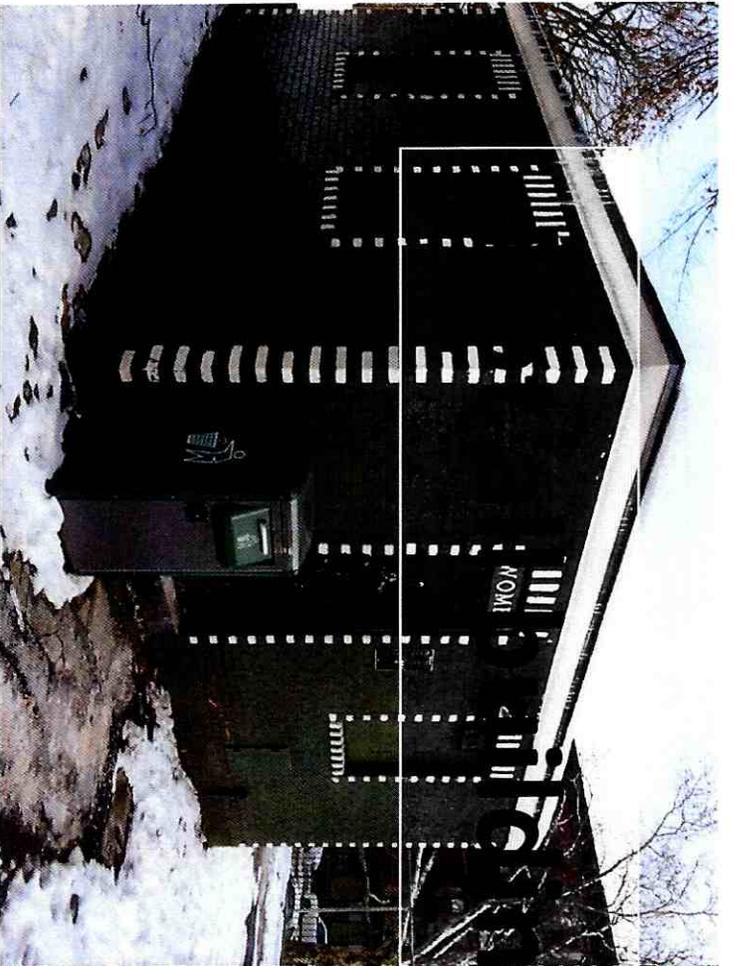
Overnight

# College Buildings?



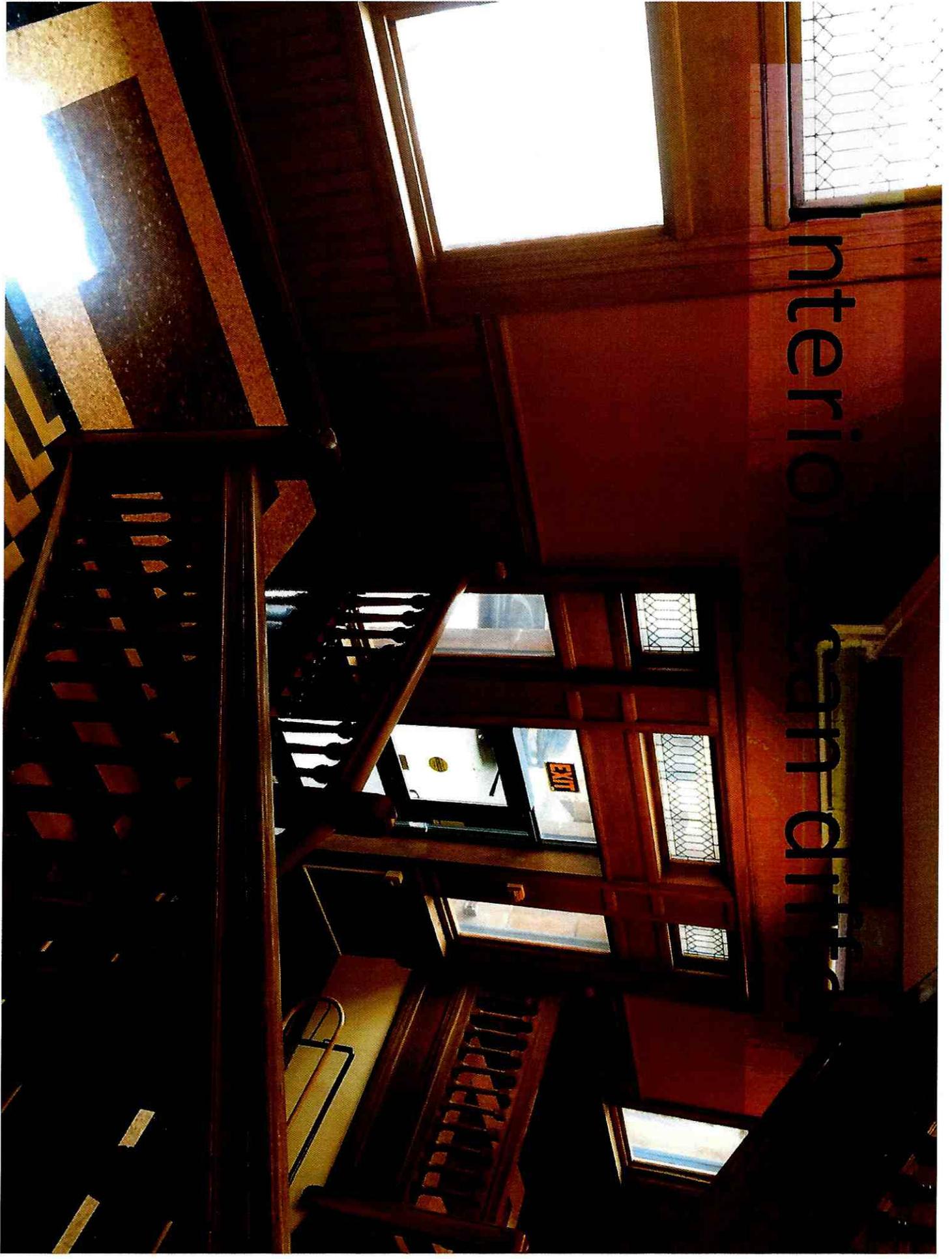
# Post Offices?



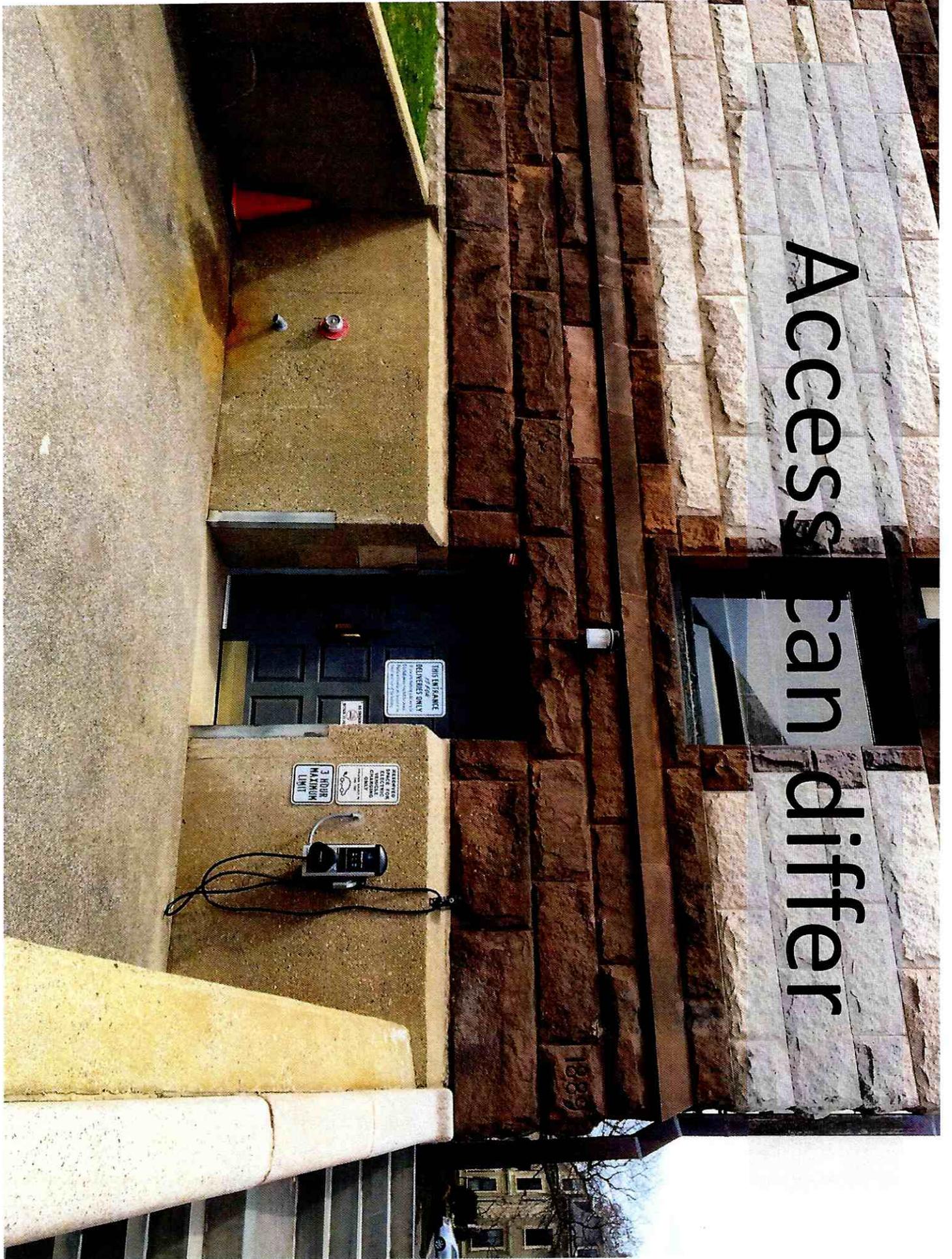


if oppos are the same

# Interior can differ



Access can differ

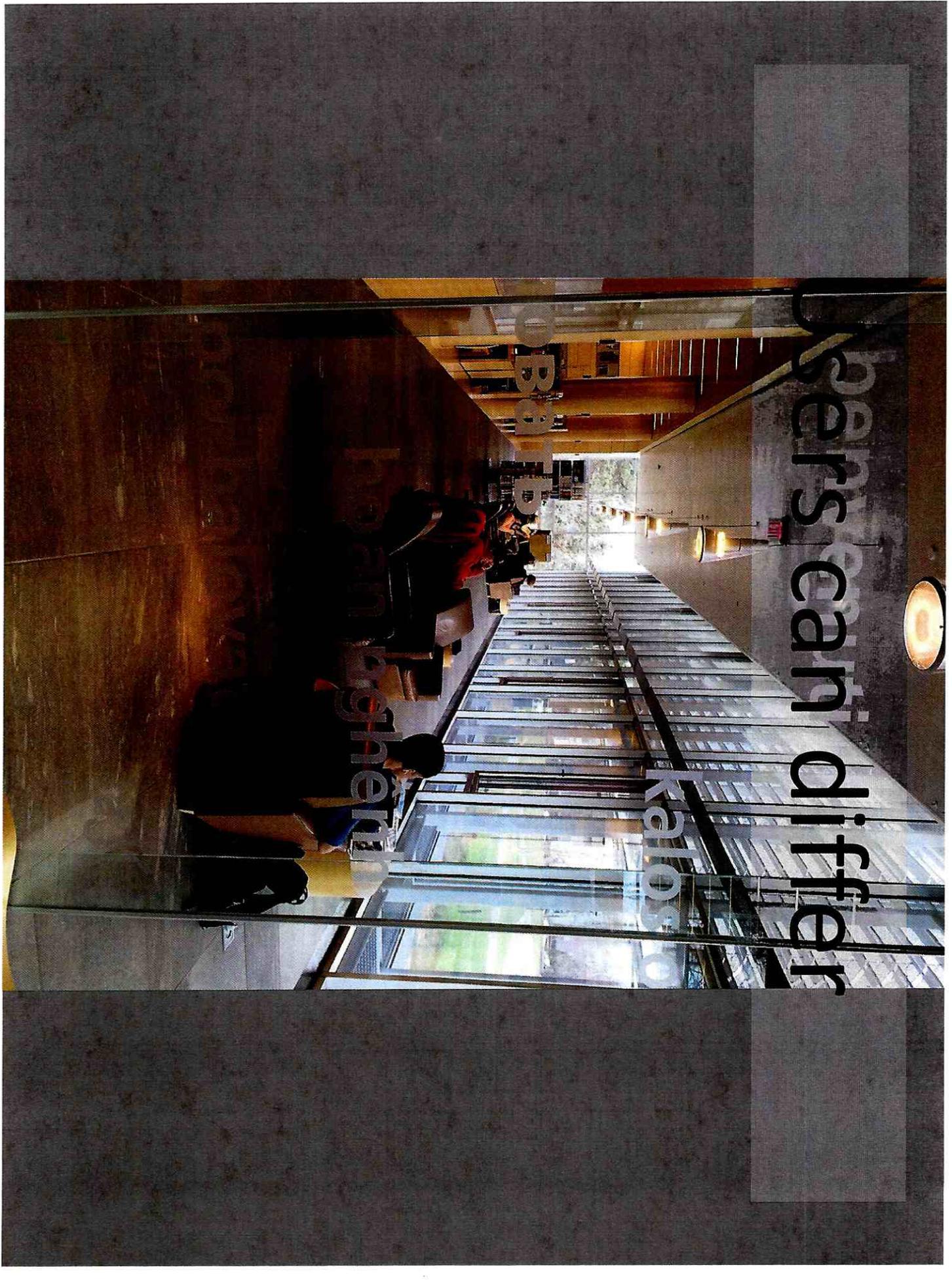


Years can differ

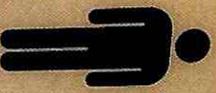
Kalos

ghetti

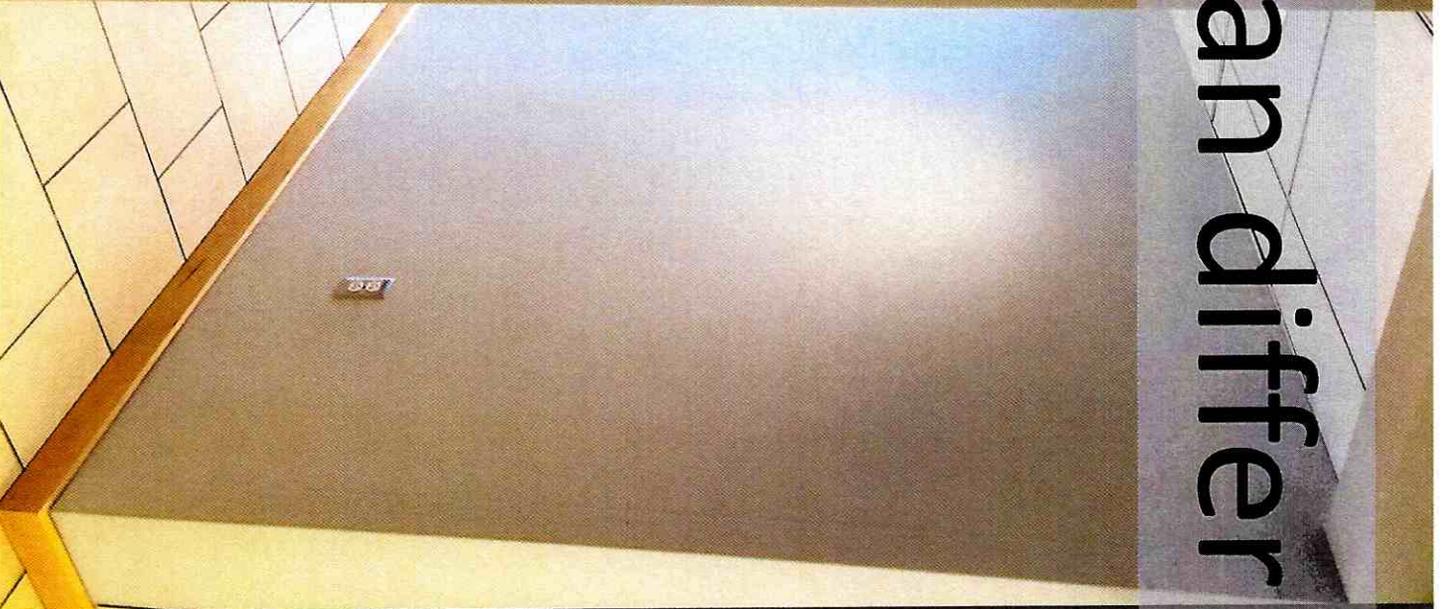
B&B



# Uses can differ



MEN

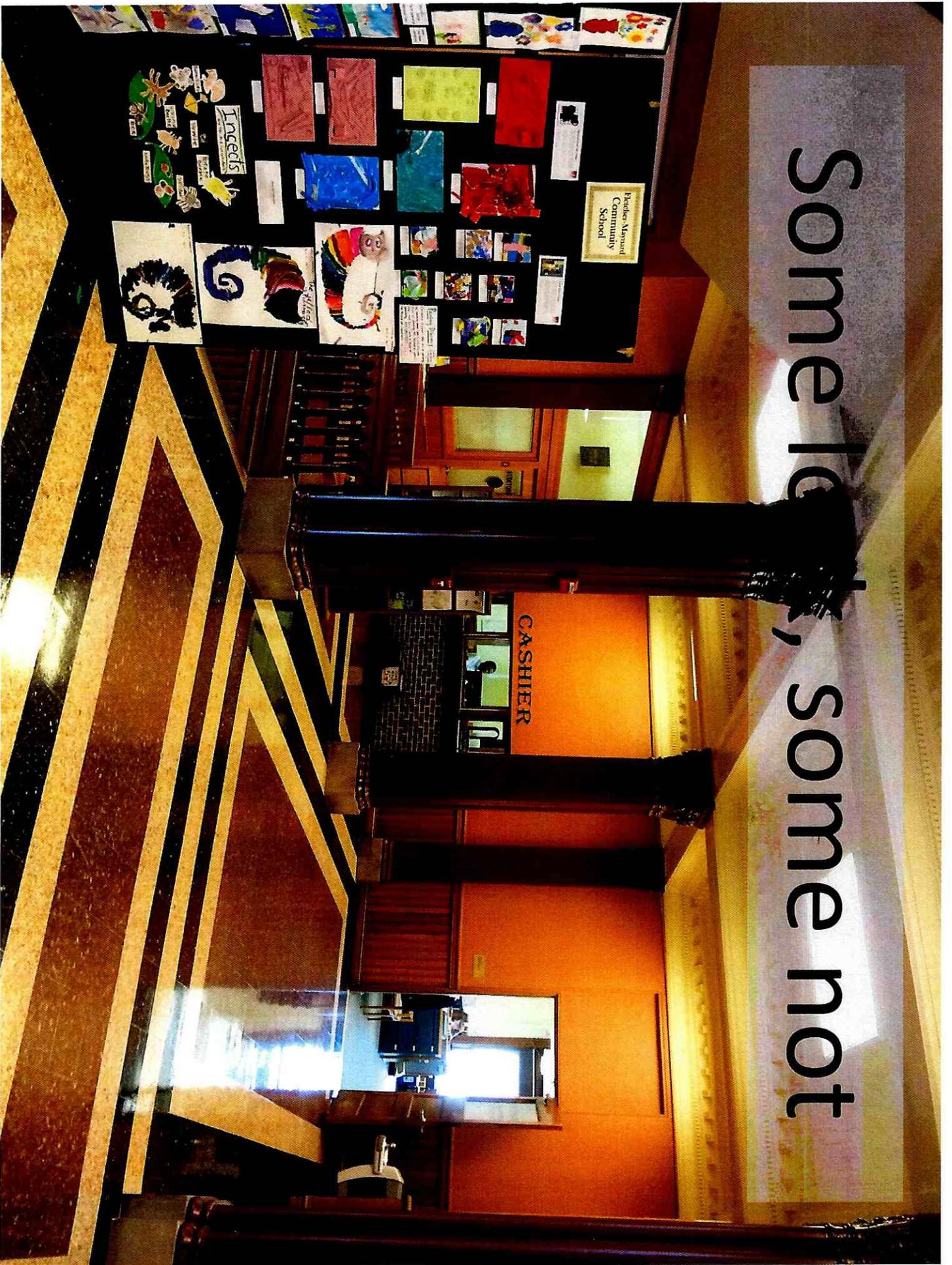


## And what is “safety”

- Lockable
- Patrolled
  - Sworn officers
    - In Uniform
    - Full time
- Cameras

# REALLY???

Some Id, some not

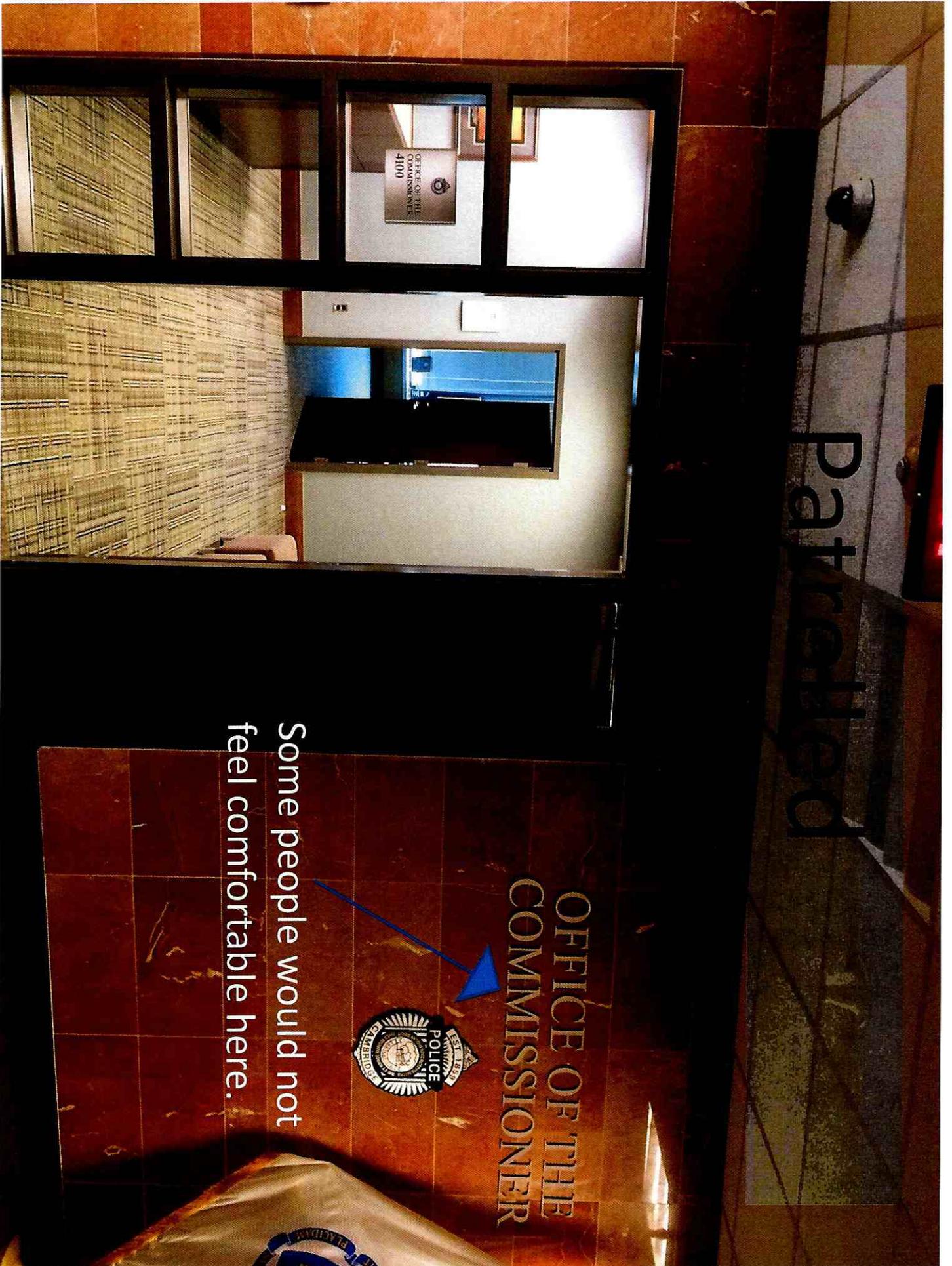


# Patrolled

OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER



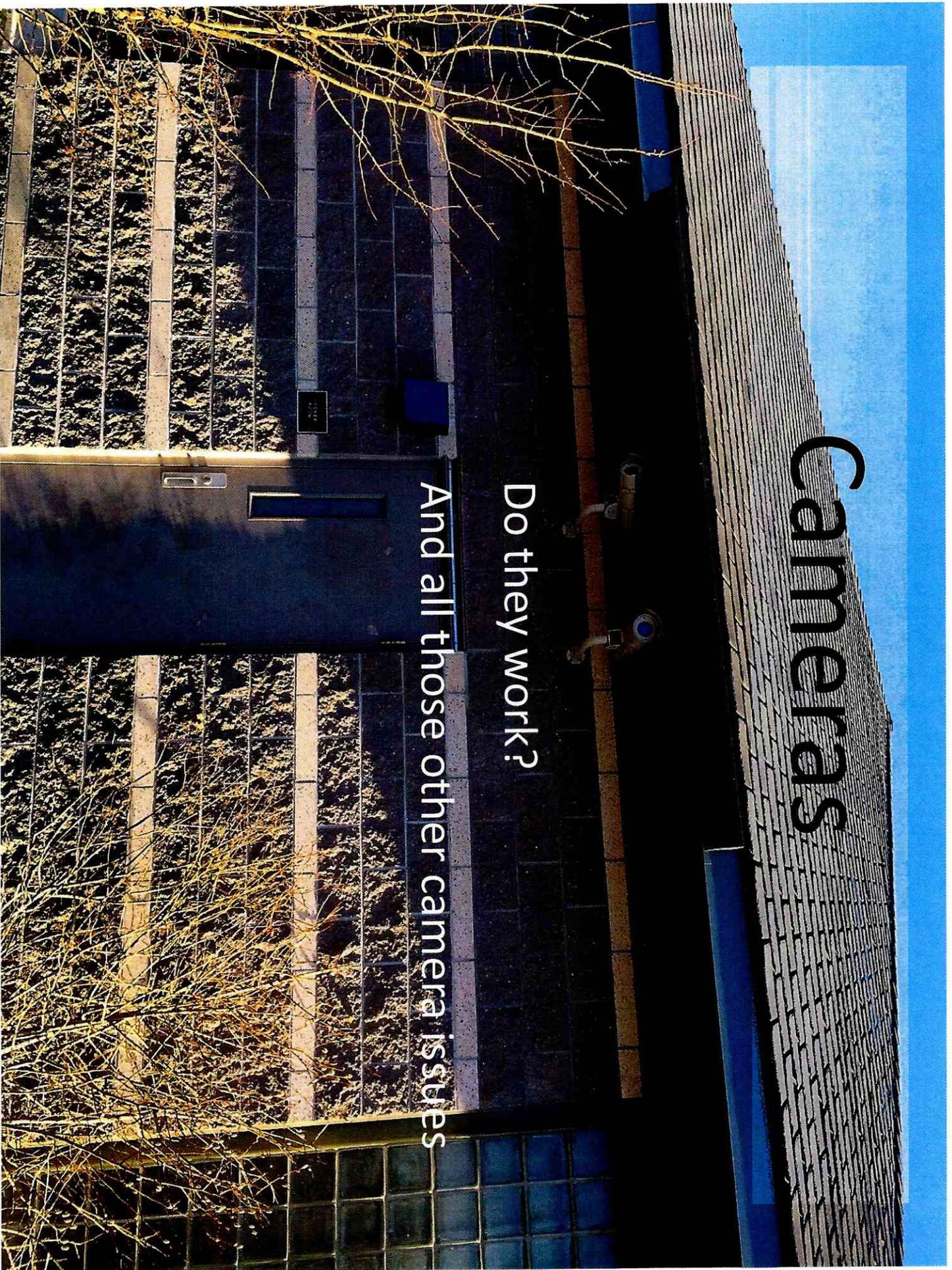
Some people would not  
feel comfortable here.



# Cameras

Do they work?

And all those other camera issues



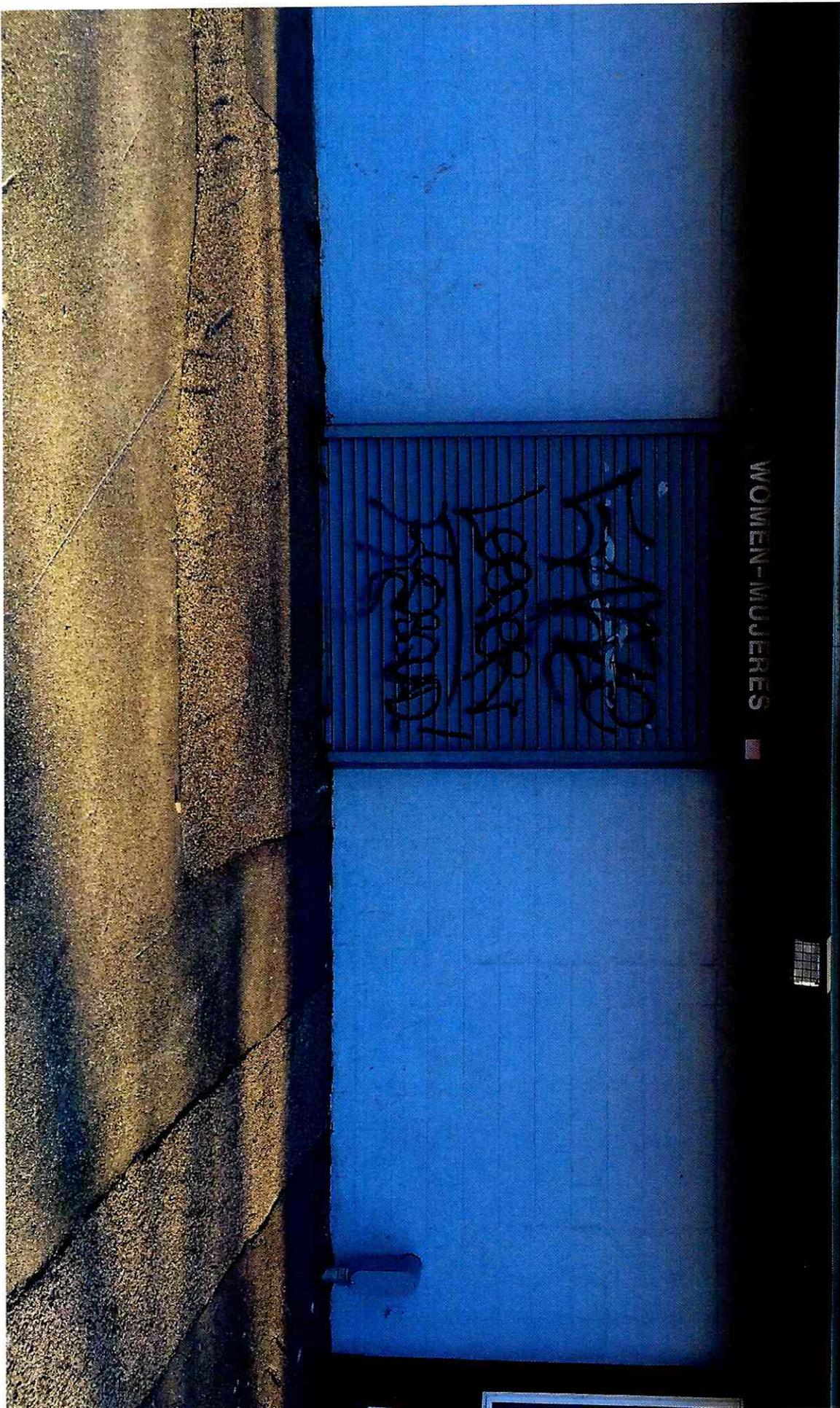
# What are we protecting?

- **People**
  - From assault
  - Response to injury
- **Real Property**
  - From vandalism
  - From fire
- **Personal Property**
  - From theft
  - From vandalism

people at a public meeting



# Graffiti on DCCR Building



# **My wife's bike**

**Was stolen outside the CRLS Arts Building**

# Guess what?

The theft was *not* caught on camera.

# Conclusion

- Public safety in public buildings is a complicated issue
- It's not just police
- Police in public buildings may intimidate people
- We still haven't reached consensus on cameras