

**Re: Policy Order Resolution 0-9
for the permanent record – February 13, 2012**

**In Support of The LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL and A PERMANENT DIRECTOR**

As a resident of the Longfellow neighborhood and a member of the Longfellow Neighborhood Council, I am very concerned about the present and future status of our Longfellow Neighborhood Council. I am aware that the King School is scheduled to move in to the Longfellow School in September 2012 and remain for three years. Then another elementary school is scheduled to be temporarily moved in. This suggests that there could be a transitional director in the Longfellow school for eight to ten years. This plan does not serve our neighborhood, which has developed and continues to build community within the neighborhood. What happens to other councils and schools should not be at the expense of the Longfellow neighborhood. The Longfellow neighbors want and need our own director and programs. I specifically want the Longfellow Neighborhood Council to be able to return to our space by the fall of 2012 and for the director position to be a permanent full time benefited position.

The Longfellow Council is a very active and creative one. It has been at the heart of the neighborhood for decades, and represents the fabric of the neighborhood. It has given birth to many neighborhood projects - most notably the recent publication of *From the Heart of Cambridge: A Neighborhood Portrait*. This project, which took seven years, includes the stories of ninety neighbors and exquisitely captures the history of the neighborhood, uniquely placing it in time and space for ourselves and for future generations.

Activities and programs of the Council are open to everyone in the City and have given birth to and include:

- creative use of city parks
- adult yoga classes
- music classes and recitals for young children
- music classes and recitals for adults
- an annual neighborhood ski trip

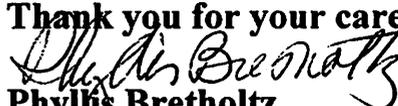
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- **special events such as “Evening With Longfellow” presentations that included a showing of Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth” as the start of a conversation about the environment**
 - **seasonal events such as the Hancock Park Halloween Party and The Longfellow Council Caroling Evening**

This council is the backbone of the neighborhood and I am deeply concerned about and committed to its location within the Longfellow School. The current office is more than large enough to house two neighborhood councils and we are aware that there is a precedent for this since the council office in the Graham and Parks School has been shared.

Therefore, as a neighborhood resident and member of the Longfellow Neighborhood Council, I am requesting that:

- *The Longfellow Neighborhood Council director position be continued on a permanent benefited basis**
- * funding for the position of director of the LNC remain in the City budget**
- * the Council office be housed within the Longfellow School**
- * and that we have input in the selection of a permanent director.**

Thank you for your careful consideration and support.


Phyllis Bretholtz
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February 13, 2012