



City of Cambridge

O-5
IN CITY COUNCIL
October 31, 2016

COUNCILLOR DEVEREUX
COUNCILLOR MAZEN
VICE MAYOR MCGOVERN
COUNCILLOR CARLONE

WHEREAS: The “Out of Town News” kiosk in Harvard Square is one of Cambridge’s most beloved and iconic structures by virtue of its distinctive architectural features and its prominent location on the public plaza opposite Harvard Yard and the Coop; and

WHEREAS: Sheldon Cohen, the founder of Out of Town News is honored in the adjacent island for establishing the kiosk as an emporium where well-known individuals ranging from Robert Frost to John Kenneth Galbraith to Julia Child acquired magazines and newspapers of the day; and

WHEREAS: The kiosk was completed in 1928 as the original entrance to the new Harvard Square T station, and now sits next to the T’s main entrance, where thousands of people pass daily; and

WHEREAS: The kiosk was designed by Clarence H. Blackall, the architect of the Wang and Gaiety theaters and of Boston’s first steel skyscraper (the 1893 Winthrop/Carter building), which is currently under review for landmark status and whose roof line and masonry bear a striking resemblance to that of the kiosk; and

WHEREAS: The kiosk was the site of important incidents in Cambridge Social History, most notably the 1970 Harvard Square Anti-War Riot; and

WHEREAS: The kiosk, which is owned by the City of Cambridge, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978; and

WHEREAS: As of October 25th, nearly 800 people have signed an online petition and some 200 have signed local petitions circulated by the Our Harvard Square advocacy group, asking the City to landmark the kiosk so that its essential architectural features are preserved during its proposed renovation and repurposing; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in support of the Cambridge Historical Commission initiating a landmark designation study process on the Harvard Square kiosk.

In City Council October 31, 2016.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of six members.
Attest:- Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna P. Lopez".

Donna P. Lopez, City Clerk