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FROM
Carl Barron

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March 7, 2011

Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: ADL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

I have just been released from the Mount Auburn Hospital, this weekend, after a 15-day visit for major surgery. It was only upon my return home, this weekend, that I learned about the proposed criticism concerning a nationwide program for law enforcement that has been widely accepted by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies because of its providing much-needed experience against terrorism, especially in the area of protection against bombing.

For 94 years, I have lived and/or worked in the City of Cambridge. I believe it to be a very wonderful community and deserving of support in civic matters for the benefit and protection of all. I have implemented this feeling by taking action, voluntarily, in many different ways, without seeking publicity. This includes the establishment of the Barron Center for Men's Health at the Mount Auburn Hospital, the establishment of 5 annual scholarships at the Rindge and Latin High School more than 20 years ago (Councilor Decker was the recipient of one of the earliest Barron Family Scholarships), examinations for members of the Cambridge Police and Fire Departments for determining prostate cancer, contributions to the Cambridge Central Square Senior Center, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, the YWCA, and many others. I have not felt that it was necessary to obtain any type of approval and, in all instances, my contributions were accepted.

Ever since the horror and murder of innocent Americans in the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York City, 10 years ago, the conviction of the Reid "shoe bomber", and the "underwear bomber", all within the United States, plus major similar atrocities in the bombings in London, Madrid, Athens, the USS Cole, and many other episodes, many people, including myself, have become very concerned about security and safety, especially to innocent men, women and children in our civilian population. When I discovered that training programs in these dangerous areas were provided by a highly-respected organization, the Anti-Defamation League, I took it upon myself to investigate and see if it would be available to law enforcement staff in my home city of Cambridge. When I voluntarily mentioned the excellent potential for teaching law enforcement

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officers in a very highly-skilled program, I volunteered to pay the costs of participation to learn about this program for our local police department. All costs in this regard were contributed by me in the belief that I was contributing to the civic well-being and protection of our community. This appeared to be extremely valuable since the State of Israel, a tiny country of 7.1 million people, is surrounded by approximately 250 million people who loudly and physically try to destroy this tiny country. As a result, Israel survived 6 wars despite the huge difference in population. This, to me, convinced me of the value of self-protection against suicide bombers, murderous attacks upon civilian populations, as well as the huge number of bombing attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan, killing thousands of American soldiers.

For the record, this program began when Ronnie Watson was Police Commissioner and he was the first member of the Cambridge Police Department to participate.

My intent was to provide the Cambridge Police Department with another form of experience that, potentially, would be protective. I felt that this fell within the scope of the management power for developing training of the most efficient and productive modern techniques. There was absolutely no political or other intent, and I hereby absolutely refute any innuendos or inferences that any motivation existed beyond providing training to our police officers for their protection, as well as for our community. I therefore ask that Resolution #20 eliminate language that calls into question the value of the highly effective and privately-funded ADL Public Safety Missions to Israel. I have spent significant time with Cambridge participants of these missions, along with several other senior-level participants who do not work in Cambridge, and the officers all have told me emphatically and repeatedly how incredibly important tools they are to help keep all of us in Cambridge safe.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

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