

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CITY OF BOSTON FINANCE COMMISSION,
24 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON 8, MASS., February 9, 1966.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The attached legislation is designed to correct an inequity whereby Boston subsidizes recreation for suburbanites at a cost of over \$100,000 annually.

The "L" Street Bathhouse is a famed and colorful landmark. It is a vital part of the Greater Boston scene. However, it serves a metropolitan clientele. Surveys and studies by the Boston Finance Commission indicate that nearly 50% of its users come from outside the City.

The bathhouse is a rather costly facility to operate. It has 28 full-time employees and a weekly payroll of \$2,392.50. The City spent over \$212,000 to operate the bathhouse in 1964. It will become increasingly costly as employee salaries increase — one increase is already in effect — and as its physical plant deteriorates. The City does not make allowances for depreciation in its computation of cost.

The cost is being borne by the taxpayers of Boston. Since it is an item in the City's budget for recreation, the cost is, in a sense being borne by those groups who need more recreational facilities, such as the City's children and its large population of senior citizens. Transferring the Bathhouse to the MDC could release additional funds for their needs.

We should like to point out that the MDC already has control and jurisdiction over the other beaches and bathing houses along the same Strandway.

Under Chapter 509 of the Acts of 1949, the MDC assumed responsibility for certain beach and park facilities in the South Boston-Dorchester area previously under City of Boston control. The facilities turned over included Farragut, City Point, M Street,

Carson, Savin Hill and Tenean beaches; Marine Park, Carson and Tenean beach bathhouses; Marine Park and the Strandway District.

The Strandway section of beaches stretches continuously from Kosciuszko Circle to Castle Island. The "L" Street Bathhouse, lying in the center of this continuous stretch of beach, was not included in the MDC 1949 takeover. As a result, it stands out conspicuously as an obstacle to a unified pattern of Strandway jurisdiction.

It makes little sense to exclude the "L" Street facility and thereby perpetuate an inequitable situation that is detrimental to Boston and its people.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FINANCE COMMISSION.

GEORGE E. BERKLEY,
Chairman.

ROGER J. ABIZAID, M.D.

JOSEPH P. McNAMARA.

RUSSELL S. CODMAN, JR.

ABRAHAM MONSEIN, ESQ.

THOMAS J. MURPHY,
Executive Secretary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION BY THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION OF THE L STREET BEACH AND BATHHOUSE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The metropolitan district commission, on behalf of the com-
2 monwealth, is hereby authorized and directed to take by eminent
3 domain, under chapter seventy-nine of the General Laws, or
4 acquire by purchase or otherwise, as a part of the system of
5 metropolitan parks under the control of said commission, the
6 L Street beach and bathhouse in that part of the city of Boston
7 known as South Boston.

The Commission on the Administration of Justice
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter
of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you that
the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities
for their consideration. The Commission is
of the opinion that the same should be referred
to the Department of Justice for their consideration
and that the same should be referred to the
Department of the Interior for their consideration.

Very respectfully,
The Commission on the Administration of Justice

Secretary

Washington, D. C.

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