

ARTICLE FOURTEENTH

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WILL OF  
GEORGE ROBERT WHITE

ARTICLE FOURTEENTH: Whereas my sister Mary E. Sullivan has died, and I have otherwise provided for my sister Harriet J. Bradbury, I do now carry out by immediate gift my public charitable purpose which in previous wills I [7] had provided for in remainder, and I do now give all the rest and residue of my property of every nature to the City of Boston, the same to be held as a permanent charitable trust fund to be known as the George Robert White Fund, and the net income only to be used for creating works of public utility and beauty, for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the City of Boston. It is my intention that no part of said income, however, shall be used for a religious, political, educational or any purpose which it shall be the duty of the City in the ordinary course of events to provide.

The control and management of said Fund and the disbursement of the income shall be in the hands of a board of five trustees to consist of the Mayor, who shall be its chairman, the President of the City Council, the City Auditor, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Bar Association of the City of Boston. If by the reason of the abolition of any one or more of these offices or the declination or resignation of any one or more of the persons holding them for the time being a vacancy or vacancies shall occur, I direct that such vacancies shall be filled by the remaining members of the board, by the election of the persons whose respective positions and duties shall in the opinion of the board most nearly correspond therewith. As this is a public charitable gift to the City of Boston, it is my intention that the [8] City shall at all times be officially represented by a majority of the board of trustees charged with its management.

The business of the Fund shall be transacted through the regular departments of the City, viz. the Treasurer, Auditor, Corporation Counsel, etc., and a suitable office or offices for the use of the trustees shall be provided for them by the City in the City Hall or elsewhere, in which shall be kept all books and records of every nature relating to the management of the Fund, properly indexed and readily accessible during business hours for the reasonable inspection of citizens, so that all who so desire may have full knowledge of the conduct of the business of the Fund. I direct that said income shall not be anticipated or pledged beyond the amount actually in hand, but it may be accumulated for any purpose within the scope of the gift, and successive accumulations may be applied to the same object. Any work or works established from the Fund may be improved, extended, enlarged or added to from time to time, but the current expense of their care and maintenance shall be borne by the City. I also direct that no part of said income shall be mingled with other funds or applied in joint undertakings; but that each work established under this gift shall be separate and distinct, and shall always bear in a conspicuous place a suitable inscription identifying [9] it as erected or established from said George Robert White Fund. If for any reason the principal of said Fund shall at any time become impaired, the income shall be allowed to accumulate until such impairment shall have been made good.

Inasmuch as I believe an enlightened public opinion to be the most effective safeguard for the preservation and maintenance of such a charitable fund and the best guide to its effective use, I direct that at least once a year the trustees shall cause to be published in most if not all of the daily newspapers of general circula-

tion in Boston a full and comprehensive report, duly audited, and signed and sworn to by at least three of their number, setting forth the receipts, disbursements and investments of the Fund and a copy of this fourteenth article of my will establishing it.

In order to diminish the chance of hasty or unconsidered action in the expenditure of income, I believe that no substantial expenditure should be made for any purpose until it shall have been under consideration by the trustees for at least three months.

As it is probable that said Fund will consist in greater part of real estate centrally situated in the City of Boston which is reasonably sure to increase in value, I urgently recommend that such real estate be not sold for a period of at least one hundred (100) years, that leases of the same [10] shall be subject to revaluations as a basis of rentals every ten (10) years and where necessary shall provide for rebuilding by the lessees, that the real estate shall not be mortgaged, and the buildings thereon shall be kept fully insured.

If any clause or provision of the foregoing charitable gift should be found to be invalid in law, it shall not invalidate the gift as a whole but shall so far as possible be construed as an expression of my general intent.

While I think that Boston has now few, if any, superiors in beauty and in the many privileges it affords to its citizens, yet I believe it has greater possibilities for the future, and there are several public blessings among those afforded by other cities, — such as a zoological garden and handsome buildings therefor, an aquarium, a forum of substantial proportions for public gatherings, etc. — which we do not possess. It is with such things as

these in mind that I have established the foregoing trust fund.

I can conceive that pressure might be brought to bear to use the income of this Fund for small and comparatively unimportant needs, which might be equally deserving and technically within the general scope of the Trust as heretofore expressed. A use of it for such purposes to any substantial extent would be contrary to my intention, which is that its income, accumulated if need be for a time long enough to make it sufficient, should [11] be used only for important civic improvements.

I suggest that printed copies, in convenient pamphlet form of this the fourteenth article of my will be kept at the office of the trustees of the Fund for free distribution to citizens of Boston.

I request that the trustees named in this article shall annually designate one of their number who shall visit and inspect my lot in Forest Hills Cemetery in the months of April and September of each year, and report to the board any neglect or failure to comply with the provisions of the contract of perpetual care, as well as Article First of this my will, in regard to the care of said lot, and it shall be the duty of said trustees to see that such neglect or lack of care be remedied without delay.