



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: James L. Sullivan
City Manager
FROM: Chief Leo F. Davenport
SUBJECT: Awaiting Report Item

DATE: May 15, 1979

REFERENCE: Foot Patrolmen in
East Cambridge

Dear Sir:

If deployment of foot patrolmen in East Cambridge was the appropriate response to Councilor Vellucci's request of April 2, 1979, then no action has been taken on the matter. However, this is not disregard of Councilor Vellucci's concern for the safety of his constituents; rather, their safety, and that of all the city's inhabitants, is my chief concern. For this reason, we are continuing utilization of one man police cruisers, and deploying foot patrolmen only if a special need arises. For example, recently foot patrolmen were used in various sections of the city, East Cambridge among them, as a deterrent to vandalism.

In the long run, our objective of providing protection to the greatest number of people, given our limited manpower resources, can best be achieved through the use of one-man patrol cars. There are many advantages to this operating procedure. First, and most obvious, more territory can be covered in a given sector. Also, response time to calls is greatly reduced. If more foot patrolmen were used, in the subject area the number of officers available for cruiser duty would be reduced, thereby reducing the number of cruisers available to a given sector. The result could be disastrous - a foot patrolman unable to respond quickly enough, and a lone sector car tied up with another call. This is a situation to be avoided at all costs.

Foot patrolmen are used in concentrated commercial areas such as Harvard and Central Squares because of the unique problems which exist there.

Heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic at times require the presence of a foot patrolman to facilitate traffic flow at peak commuter hours or to re-route vehicles around temporary obstacles. Also, the volume of business being transacted in these areas obviously creates a need for specialized protection. The configuration of East Cambridge is not such that either factor - traffic or commerce - necessitates the daily presence of foot patrolmen.

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

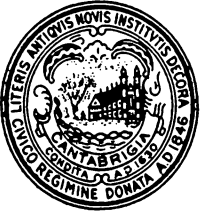
May 15, 1979

The methods of policing we use are consistent with accepted law enforcement throughout the country which are the result of exhaustive testing and research. The greater efficacy of one-man patrol cars is an unassailable fact.

I remain,

Leo F. Davenport
Chief of Police

LFD:fb



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 21, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith a communication received from Chief Leo F. Davenport, Police Department, in answer to Awaiting Report Item No. 11, City Council Order No. 5 of April 2, 1979, relative to foot patrolmen in East Cambridge area.

Very truly yours,

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

S-304

Response to Awaiting Report No. 11 re:
action taken on request for foot patrolmen
in East Cambridge.

In City Council,
May 21, 1979

5/21/79

Placed on File