



# City of Cambridge

89.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
September 14, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
MAYOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the License Commission regarding the policy to be followed by taxi drivers when they are witnessing a crime; and be it further

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Police Commissioner to increase patrols in Harvard Square in the vicinity of the "T" station which was the recent scene of violence where a taxi driver was unwilling to give assistance.

**NO ACTION TAKEN.**



89

# City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor TRIANTAFILIDIS

**ORDERED:**

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ~~meet~~ confer with the License Commission regarding the policy to be followed by taxi drivers when they are witnessing a crime; and be it further ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Police Commissioner to increase patrols in the Harvard Square area in the vicinity of the "T" station which was the recent scene of violence where a taxi driver was unwilling to give assistance.

Date: Fri, Aug 14, 1998 2:07 PM EDT  
From: Devney1  
Subj: Fighting in Harvard Square  
To: KTCouncil, KER340, agalluccio@ci.cambridge.ma.us,  
Fduehay@MCIMail.com, HenriDavis, KathyBorn

1998 AUG 31 A 9:34  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councillors

I think you should do something regarding a dangerous situation.

About three weeks ago in the evening I was walking thru Harvard Square near the Cambridge Savings Bank and the main entrance to the "T". I witnessed a fight where a drunk man was chased out on to Mass Ave and shoved to the ground, had his head beaten on the ground drawing blood etc.. Attempting to stop the fight I was screamed at by the people who gathered for the show not to interfere. As I and a musician who came to help were yelling for someone to call the police; people in the crowd were screaming for the drunk man to be beaten and tried screaming encouragement to the man who was beating him up and anyone else to beat the man. Some tried to push me out of the way so the fight could continue. Some kept yelling at me and the musician that the man was drunk and deserved to be beaten up. At one point I turned to a cab driver sitting in his cab to call the police on his radio and he refused even after I told him it was his duty to do so. I ran to the pay phone and called the police. Even after things had quieted down one woman in the audience kept baiting the drunk man trying to restart the fight or just to keep the show going. There were over 50 people in that crowd and as far as I know despite our multiple yelled requests to call the cops almost no one did.

It was like the movies of a bear baiting event....it was very disturbing.

If this is to be an area for the people to party additional safeguards are required. Baltimore has cameras up on some street corners and we must consider this method or a cop there all the time. Also, the cab driver being unwilling to even pick up his damn radio struck me as insane. Please, if you can, inform the cab companies that this will not be tolerated.

Michael Devney  
Registered Voter  
502 Green Street  
Cambridge, MA



# City of Cambridge

89.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
September 14, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the License Commission regarding the policy to be followed by taxi drivers when they are witnessing a crime; and be it further:

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the Police Commissioner to increase patrols in Harvard Square in the vicinity of the "T" station which was the recent scene of violence where a taxi driver was unwilling to give assistance.

Consent Order #89

CM 405

Councillor Triantafillou re: Policy to  
be followed by taxi drivers when they are  
witnessing a crime.

In City Council September 14, 1998

No Action Taken  
see September 28, 1998