



City of Cambridge

35.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 1997

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to address the concerns in the attached communication from Martin J. Vieira regarding the situation in Inman Square.

In City Council October 20, 1997.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

35.

To Cambridge City Council,

I would like to document my some of my issues and frustrations in living in Inman Square. They are:

Parking

Noise

Increase in crime

Lower quality of life

More business/restaurants and less housing

Cambridge Chronicle doesn't respond to residents,

City of Cambridge doesn't respond to residents and when they do they increase the problems

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Now shouldn't these so called community groups and the City support something like this.

Let me also mentioned that going to the Licensing Commission meeting wasn't a picnic either. Before any resident spoke the commission members were tripping over themselves in complimenting the S&S over their buffalo wings and how much they loved the S&S. It seemed that we were screwed even before we spoke. The head of the commission even had lunch with the owners to review their plans. Would he like to have lunch with us sometime and we will tell him what we think of the commission's behavior and any plans that may come before it.

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In case anyone cares here are a few examples of issues that should be addressed in Inman Square.

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- Traffic Light synchronization
- Parking problems - Weekends mornings are actually worse due to brunches.
- Increase in Crime. The murder of the shopkeeper, more muggings, stolen cars and drugs.
- Mail delivery stinks. We don't get mail one every two weeks and lately it has been one day every week.
- Cable reception is getting worse. We call and Continental says they know it is happening to a lot of people in the neighborhood but, they don't know what the problem is.
- A lot of time was spent at a recent City Council meeting regarding tree plantings in Central Square. I think someone should look at the trees in Inman Sq. and along Prospect Street heading towards Central Sq. I am tired on ducking under low branches and seeing the weeds growing better than the trees. Some of the trees are too close together and are blocking the street lights. This can add to an increase in crime. In addition, who picked out the trees that were planted. To the residents they have been affectionately called the

Marijuana trees. Take a look at them and you will see what we mean. Are these trees being planted all over Cambridge or are they just reserved for us? Would other parts of Cambridge be treated like this?

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- With all the recent discussions regarding Electric and Radio waves causing cancer I would like a study done on the substation located on Prospect Street near Hampshire. There have been 6 or 7 deaths over the past two years of people living near the substation. I want to know if the substation had anything to do with those deaths? In addition, I want to know what the safety plan is for that substation considering the recent explosion in Kendall Square and more importantly what happens to that substation with all of the plans for deregulation going on.

When a person or group claims they are speaking for the community they take on a lot of responsibility. Just because people don't speak up doesn't mean they don't care. Some of us assume you know what you are doing and will do the right thing. Or we don't have the time or energy to attend all of the meetings. Or the one meeting we miss is when all the decisions are made. We also assume you would talk to people in the community.

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- Public intoxication
- Public urination
- Public fornication
- Fighting
- Illegal parking
- Damage to private property
- Increase in Noise (especially with 2AM closing time and more recently Keno and pool tables
- LOWER property values

Brief History:

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Without going in to all details let me address a few of the issues. I would like to explain the Illegal Parking, Damage to Private Property and the Lower Property Values issues. If anyone cares to hear the whole story just call me sometime. I would be glad to sit with anyone for an hour or more and explain all the details.

Illegal parking:

There is a right of way next to the house which has allowed us to get to the back of the property for the last 49 years. We have had this right of way blocked by patrons of the local drinking establishments and owners and friends of these drinking establishments. Their arrogance in this matter is very frustrating.

Damage to Private Property:

The side of my house has been damaged by cars backing into it. When confronted the President of Inman Square Businessmen Association told me it wasn't any of their members cars and therefore would not pay for any damages to my house. However, a few years ago a drunk driver parked illegally plowed into the foundation of the New Words Bookstore. The foundation was repaired and wood railroad type logs placed in front of the foundation. Also, these logs were placed in front of my house.

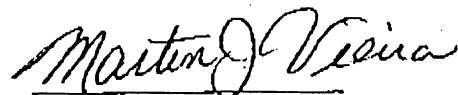
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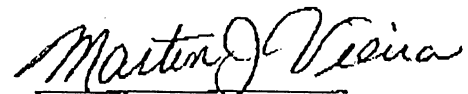
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TIM TOOMEY

CITY COUNCILLOR
The Commitment Continues

Dorena

*Can you
try to find out
what this order
should be about
This letter*

*Cares every-
thing except
the people
sink!*

DMD

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Margaret

FROM: Tim Toomey

COMMENTS: Please put in
as an order

TOTAL PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 6

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- With all the recent discussions regarding Electric and Radio waves causing cancer I would like a study done on the substation located on Prospect Street near Hampshire. There have been 6 or 7 deaths over the past two years of people living near the substation. I want to know if the substation had anything to do with those deaths? In addition, I want to know what the safety plan is for that substation considering the recent explosion in Kendall Square and more importantly what happens to that substation with all of the plans for deregulation going on.

When a person or group claims they are speaking for the community they take on a lot of responsibility. Just because people don't speak up doesn't mean they don't care. Some of us assume you know what you are doing and will do the right thing. Or we don't have the time or energy to attend all of the meetings. Or the one meeting we miss is when all the decisions are made. We also assume you would talk to people in the community.

This is a letter that I was going to send to the Cambridge Electric Company. Mr. Samperelli wanted me to send a letter. However, in the past I was afraid to put my name on paper because I have been verbally and physically threatened when speaking out regarding this parking lot at the corner of Amory and Hampshire Streets.

Thank You,

Martin J. Vieira

Martin J. Vieira
154 Amory Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

*P.S. I won't even
get into the
Jeffery Curley issue*

William Samperelli,

Once again I am asking that something be done to address the issues regarding the parking lot at the corner of Amory Street and Hampshire Street. I have offered to buy the property but, have been denied because in theory the Electric Company says they may need access to run underground lines in the future. When asked to relocate the parking lot to another site I was told EPA regulations did not make this feasible. However, stronger measures are needed to insure that the residents do not suffer from the decision to lease the property to the Inman Square Businessman's Association. Over the years the following has happened:

- Drug dealing on the property
- Public intoxication
- Public urination
- Public fornication
- Fighting
- Illegal parking
- Damage to private property
- Increase in Noise (especially with 2AM closing time and more recently Keno and pool tables
- LOWER property values

Brief History:

My father bought that property in 1948. There use to be a diner on the corner. When the diner closed the Electric Co. decided to build a parking lot over the objections of the residents (The New Words bookstore was residential back then). We even had a meeting with George Teso in his City of Cambridge office about this. They built this lot in one day (Saturday) so that we could not have any time to stop them. Ever since then we have had nothing but problems as listed above.

Without going in to all details let me address a few of the issues. I would like to explain the Illegal Parking, Damage to Private Property and the Lower Property Values issues. If anyone cares to hear the whole story just call me sometime. I would be glad to sit with anyone for an hour or more and explain all the details.

Illegal parking:

There is a right of way next to the house which has allowed us to get to the back of the property for the last 49 years. We have had this right of way blocked by patrons of the local drinking establishments and owners and friends of these drinking establishments. Their arrogance in this matter is very frustrating.

Damage to Private Property:

The side of my house has been damaged by cars backing into it. When confronted the President of Inman Square Businessmen Association told me it wasn't any of their members cars and therefore would not pay for any damages to my house. However, a few years ago a drunk driver parked illegally plowed into the foundation of the New Words Bookstore. The foundation was repaired and wood railroad type logs placed in front of the foundation. Also, these logs were placed in front of my house.

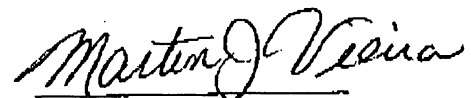
Lower Property Values:

About a year ago I tried to refinance my mortgage. I was denied because the appraised value was lower. The appraiser claims it was because of the parking lot next to my house. I am losing approximately \$100.00 a month. If I owned the parking lot the value of my property would be higher. However, as I said earlier all my attempts to purchase the property were denied.

In summary, I have had to live and raise a family in conditions that no-one should or would tolerate. I have contacted various city officials and association groups to no avail. I have been verbally and physically assaulted and was hesitant to put my feelings in writing until now. Even now I believe I will have to move. Everyone will claim they did what they could but, the problems still exists! As a matter of fact on Sunday (8/10) my wife and I were putting our children to bed when we saw two women stripped naked making out in the back seat of a Jeep or Blazer parked in the parking lot. This was no more than five feet from my house and ten feet from our daughters window. It was all I could do to get my daughters not to look out the window. My wife then went outside to sit on the steps and some of the local teenagers (boys & girls) came out and now they became witnesses to this also. As you can see there is a diversity of perversion.

I just read when the EPA regulations regarding parking in the City might be relaxed. Let me be the first to request the parking lot at the corner of Amory and Hampshire be moved to the other side of the New Words Bookstore. When I requested this be done in the past I was told that under the old EPA regulations those parking slots would go into a pool to be used anywhere in the city and could not just be moved over.

Thank You,



Martin J. Vieira
154 Amory Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

35

Councilor Toomey

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby

is requested to address the concerns

in the attached communication from

Martin J. Vieira regarding the situation

in Qumar Square.



City of Cambridge

35.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 1997

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to address the concerns in the attached communication from Martin J. Vieira regarding the situation in Inman Square.

Consent Order #35

Entire
memb.

CM-682

Councillor Toomey re: Concerns from
Martin J. Vieira regarding the
situation in Inman Square.

42

In City Council October 20, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED