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CAMBRIDGE, MA
The East Cambridge Planning Team
c/o Paula Dodds, Secretary / Treasurer
83 Third Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141

Mr. George Teso
Commissioner of Traffic and Parking
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

December 19, 1986

Dear Commissioner Teso:

We are writing to commend you on your recently publicized efforts to enforce traffic regulations in East Cambridge and to urge you to continue them in 1987.

Many East Cambridge residents have long believed that people who work, but do not live here, park illegally and rarely get caught. The number of permits just revoked proves that they were right. We have heard many complaints that visitors' permits appear in the same cars for months on end - especially near the courthouse complex, the Kennedy School and the School Department offices. It has been alleged that the Traffic Department has issued large numbers of "courtesy permits" to county employees and other privileged people. Though they are not transferrable, we have also heard that there is an active black market for extra East Cambridge visitor's permits.

An excellent start has been made in addressing these allegations, but one crackdown rarely cures years of abuse. We feel that the situation calls for full disclosure of the past abuses. We thus urge you to make public all available information about who was illegally using the passes and how they got them. Were there in fact "courtesy passes" issued? How many? To whom? Was there a black market in permits? Who was involved? What steps are you taking to track them down? We want names and addresses made public. We believe that all East Cambridge residents have a right to know. The neighborhood air seriously needs clearing.

The situation also calls for on-going enforcement of existing laws. In early 1987, when the new visitor permits are issued, we urge you to assign extra patrols to East Cambridge again to maintain ongoing records of use of illegally used visitor permits. Again, cars which are abusing them should be tagged, the permits revoked and the names made public. As a suggestion, if the name and address of the person to whom it is issued were written on each 1987 permit, it might help enforcement.

We realize that all the neighborhood employees who have been illegally using East Cambridge streets will have to park somewhere. Until the City garage is finally complete, the situation will be desperate. We understand that the County is negotiating with Com Gas to rent space in one of their lots. This would help remove some of the pressure; anything you could do to assist them in these negotiations would be greatly appreciated.

A related but separate issue has to do with the abuse of handicapped parking spaces in East Cambridge. Though we strongly support the reservation of spaces for those who need them, we have heard complaints that handicapped signs remain in front of houses long after the handicapped residents have moved. We urge you to take a complete inventory of the reserved handicapped spaces in our neighborhood and remove signs from all spaces where they are not needed.

It will always be a struggle for residents to park in East Cambridge during business hours. With proper enforcement of existing rules, the struggle can at least be a fair one. Thank you again for all your past help and for your ongoing cooperation and concern.

Very truly yours,

The East Cambridge Planning Team

By: *Nicholas Geraigery*
Nicholas Geraigery, President

Anthony Iantosca
Anthony Iantosca, Vice President

Paul Dodds
Paul Dodds, Secretary / Treasurer

cc: Hon. Members of the Cambridge City Council
Mr. Robert Healy, City Manager
Hon. Commissioners of Middlesex County
His Honor Arthur M. Mason
His Honor Lawrence F. Felonev
Scott Harshbarger, Esq.
Mr. John Zamparelli
Dr. Robert S. Peterkin
Mrs. Mary Mroz
Boston Globe
Cambridge Tab
Cambridge Chronicle

1. S-697

Comm. from Nicholas Geraigery, Pres., East
Cambridge Planning Team, et al, commending
the Traffic Dept. for its efforts to enforce
traffic regulations in East Cambridge.

In City Council,

December 29, 1986

Placed on file
Copy to Traffic
Director

copy sent to Mr. Tero, Traffic Director
12/31/86 mch