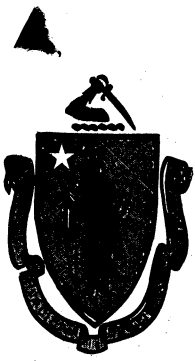


SENATOR MICHAEL LoPRESTI, JR.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

ROOM 213-C, STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Mayor Walter J. Sullivan
Cambridge City Council
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139



HON. MICHAEL LoPRESTI, JR.
SUFFOLK AND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

Mayor Walter J. Sullivan
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

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MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
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CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139
722-1634
722-1635

May 27, 1987

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY (CHAIRMAN)
ETHICS (VICE CHAIRMAN)
INSURANCE

Dear Walter:

I am writing to you on a matter I feel is of immediate concern: the change in the crime picture in Central Square. After reading many articles about it in the local newspapers, talking with worried constituents, and attending a Central Square Association meeting last night at which Chief of Police Paolillo was the speaker, I have decided to express my concern without delay and let you know what I think should be done.

Last night's CSA agenda centered on the violent nature of the crime Central Square has begun to experience as a recurring pattern. Chief Paolillo quoted statistics at some length which date from January of this year. In spite of the fact that the overall crime rate is slightly down, this year the type of crime does not conform to the old pattern of snatchings, shopliftings, pickpocketing, and so on without bodily harm. Instead, violent crimes are on the increase in Central Square -- head-splitting, beating up, and serious harrassment such as we have not seen in previous years.

As a legislator I can readily understand that the reasons for the change probably involve several factors including demographic changes in Boston. The Cambridge Police Department is working in several ways with these factors in mind, and has also used what manpower it has available to alleviate the situation, providing some welcome protection, but only on weekends.

I think Chief Paolillo and the Department deserve our thanks for what they are doing, but as summer comes on they are going to need more than thanks. I would like to recommend:

First: We need additional visible police officers in Central Square at the present time, before summer begins, during the week as well as on weekends.

Second: We should set up a June meeting which includes the Mayor and City Council, the Chief of Police, state officials, and representatives of city departments, the Central Square Association, and the neighborhood, in order to agree on a coordinated policy and program designed to deal with Central Square violent crime before it reaches a level we can't handle.

These two steps, in my mind, are essential. We have to provide Central Square -- an area of so much value to all of us -- with the protection it deserves.

Yours sincerely,

Michael LoPresti
Michael LoPresti Jr.

RECEIVED

MAY 28 1987

5.

S-376

Comm. from Sen. Michael LoPresti, expressing
concern Re: increase of violent crime in
Central Square.

In City Council,

June 8, 1987

Placed on file