

## City of Cambridge

The Ordinance Committee held a public meeting on April 14, 1998, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber for the purpose of receiving an update on staff work toward a method of regulating the appearance and location of newsboxes.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Sheila T. Russell, and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury. Also present were Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, Public Works Commission Ralph Dunphy, First Assistant City Solicitor Nancy Glowa, Supervising Legal Council Arthur Goldberg and Lenore Laurence, Department of Public Works.

Richard Rossi introduced the discussion with a review of the history of this issue. It started with City Council requests for an ordinance to regulate newsboxes. In response a draft ordinance was prepared and scheduled for review by the Ordinance Committee. The Boston Globe wrote to Mayor Duchay to express dismay at not being involved. Mayor Duchay expressed his concern and requested that the staff involve newspaper representatives in this discussion. The staff met with various newspaper publishers and started looking into ways to make the appearance of newsboxes uniform and to control the location, possibly through City purchase of uniform boxes that newspaper distributors would be required to use. A revised draft ordinance was prepared and the staff began meeting with newspaper publishers.

Richard Rossi reported that at first newspapers were not interested. There are 477 boxes throughout the City. It would be prohibitively expensive for the City to buy them all. The staff began looking at the major corridors. They started with Massachusetts Avenue, and want to look first at the main pedestrian areas, like Central Square.

Mr. Rossi stated that for the free publications, there could be a nine box module unit mounted on the street. In places where there are just a couple of boxes, there can be a "hitching post" like in Boston. In places where there are more boxes, there would be a unit that holds several different newspapers. He distributed an advertisement that includes a example of a stacked modular unit to hold several different newspapers. Attachment A.

Mr. Rossi stated that the staff is looking for the Committee to say whether it wants the staff to continue in this direction.

Henrietta Davis said as much as possible she would prefer the clusters, so-called "gangboxes." Richard Rossi cautioned that these are the boxes the newspapers dislike the most. He emphasized that he believes it is both possible and preferable to get the newspapers support and to work cooperatively on this issue.

Mr. Rossi asked Arthur Goldberg to describe the current status of the draft ordinance. Mr. Goldberg stated that the financing mechanism has not yet been settled.

Councillor Davis stated that she would like to know that urban designers have been consulted. Mr. Rossi stated that Craig Helverson and Roger Boothe are both involved in this process.

Councillor Davis suggested phasing in control of the location for all boxes soon. She suggested bringing back the location regulation portion of the ordinance soon.

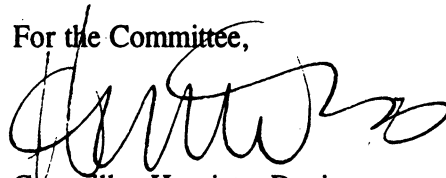
Mr. Rossi said he has some concern about separating issues that may be useful for leverage and negotiating with the newspapers.

Councillor Davis asked about the timeline. Mr. Rossi said staff should be able to come back to the committee in about 2 months.

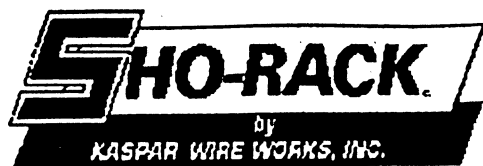
Councillor Sheila Russell moved that the issue remain in committee. It was so agreed without objection.

Councillor Davis said she would like to see an ordinance in place by September of next year. She thanked those present for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Henrietta Davis', written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Henrietta Davis,  
Chair



## Coin-Operated Newsracks and Coin Mechanisms

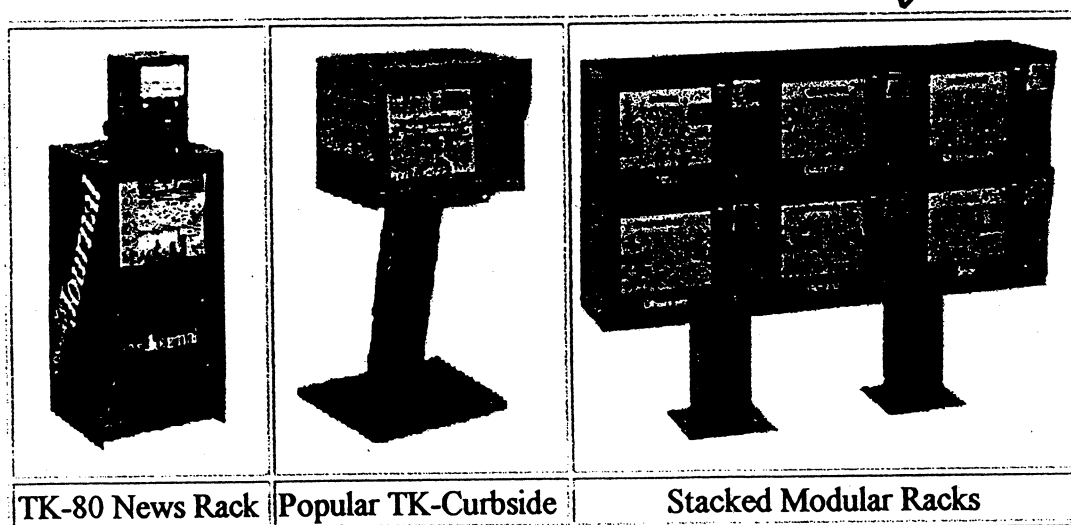
by Kaspar SHO-RACK  
1-800-527-1134

Kaspar SHO-RACK manufactures the most complete range of coin-operated newspaper racks and boxes in the nation. Our patented K-Mech® and TK-Mech® coin mechanisms have been industry leaders for years. More recently, K-TOTAL®, TK-TOTAL®, K-Electronic® and TK-Electronic® coin mechanisms have become popular additions to our line. Contact SHO-RACK for more information on these products!

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### Our Most Popular Coin Mechanisms:

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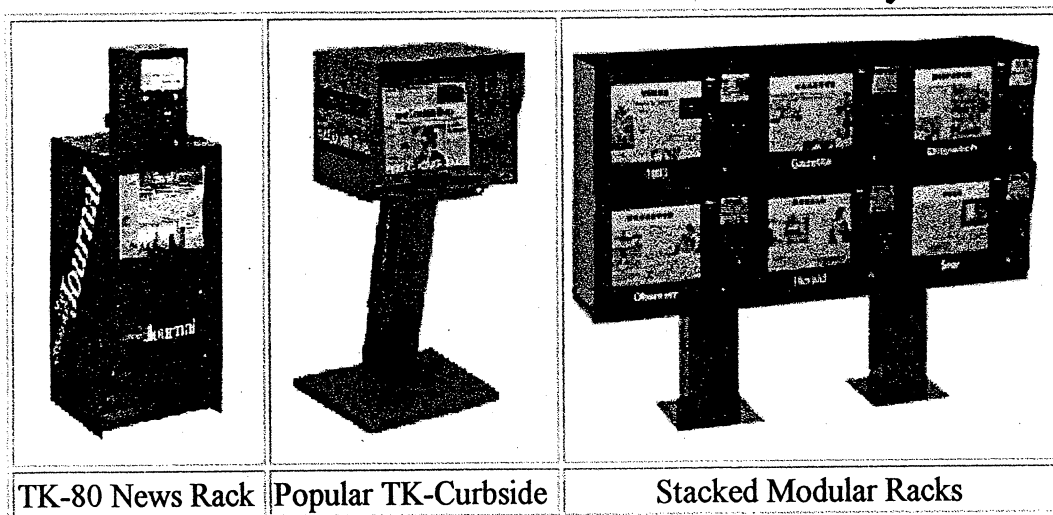
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A report from Councillor Davis  
on April 14, 1998 for the purpose  
of receiving an update on staff  
work toward a method of regulating  
the appearance and location of  
newsboxes.

In CityCouncil May 11, 1998

*Report Accepted*

**PLACED ON FILE**