

To: Paul Healy

From: Constance Hsia, 48 Dana Street

Re: Councillor Russell's request of 21 November 1982 regarding curb cut at 407A Broadway

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

I am very sorry that I must be out of town tomorrow and Tuesday and so I cannot attend the City Council meeting. Would you please transmit copies of this memo to the Councillors for their consideration? Thanks very much.

As Councillor Russell requested I, along with Joan Lorentz and John Hughes (of 59 Dana Street), have met with Jack Joseph, Miss Hiller's architect. We expressed to him our very sincere concern for the safety aspects of his requested curb cut. Dana St. is the only street after Prescott St. that goes in that direction. There is a great deal of high speed traffic, including emergency vehicles going to the two hospitals. There is also a lot of pedestrian traffic and a number of children live on the street. There is no question in our minds that a car backing out of that space would pose a real danger to cars and to people.

If, however, his client has an absolute right to the curb cut, as Mr. Joseph states, then we did arrive at some considerations which we feel would somewhat help the safety issue: 1) Remove or drastically trim the height of the privet shrub on the right side of the driveway. 2) Request that the owner of 407A Dana also trim or remove the privet hedge on the left side of the driveway to increase visibility from the Broadway direction. 3) Add 2 feet to the curb cut in the direction of Broadway, again to keep parked cars back a little bit more, thereby increasing visibility. Mr. Joseph indicated to us that he was in agreement with these three points and would co-operate as much as possible to achieve them.

Subsequent to the meeting with Mr. Joseph, I have heard from the tenants at 407A Broadway, and they are very concerned about the issue. As I understand it, their concerns are as follows: 1) The driveway would go across the land at 407A Broadway. The exhaust pipe of the car would be practically at the kitchen window of the basement apartment of 407A Broadway. 2) The corner of Broadway and Dana St. already has a high number of accidents, some fatal. 3) It would remove greenery and garden space at 407A Broadway. 4) It would remove public parking from the street. 5) Section 6.441 of the City Zoning Code states that no driveway shall be located within 5 feet of any side or rear property line (except for one, two, or three family dwellings.) 407A Broadway is a four-family dwelling and the proposed driveway is clearly closer than 5 feet to the property line.

I understand that the tenants have written letters to the City Council and that several of them will be at tomorrow evening's meeting.

Again I express my regret that I will not be able to be at the meeting.

H-201

Comm. from Constance Hsia, 48 Dana St., RE:
petition of Ruth Hiller for a driveway at
the side of 407A Broadway on Dana St. &
outcome of a meeting between area represen-
tatives & the architect of the driveway.

In City Council,

December 5, 1983

12/5/83

Response to the
Petition.

(copy placed with Hiller petition
12/7/83/mh)