

122 Trowbridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
April 20, 1980

Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mayor Duehay,

This morning I had a very unpleasant experience, and feel it my public duty to relay this discriminatory episode to you. While walking home from the store with my friend and our dog, we were stopped by the dog officer. He said that our dog was unleashed (it did not matter that he was only a few feet in front of us, was well behaved, was not bothering anyone, and we were carrying his leash) and that he was citing us. I asked the officer, John Manuel, if he picked up dogs that were allowed to roam the neighborhoods and sometimes caused a public nuisance. He said yes, but only a block away there were two such dogs (one ripping a bag of garbage and eating its contents) but Officer Manuel did NOTHING. Since when is unequal application of the law justice?

Secondly, we were given different information concerning the leash law from two different officers. Last fall while at Fresh Pond an officer said that we could keep our dog off the leash if we were there to supervise him and carried his leash with us. We have always tried to be conscientious dog owners and have heeded this officer's advice. Now, Officer Manuel implied that the first officer was wrong by describing his version. While licensing our dog (under my name) earlier this month, I took copies of the literature to make sure I was aware of the laws. I have yet to come across a copy of the Cambridge leash law. Is it a secret? I was always under the impression that a supervised dog may be off the leash. If the law has changed the public, especially dog owners, should be informed by mail or on the back of their licensing certificate.

I am very disturbed and concerned over this incident because no effort was displayed by the City of Cambridge to make dog owners aware of its leash law and because we were victims of unequal application of the law.

Sincerely,


Darlene Schaefer

Number of Citation A01962
Issued to Sheldon Kamienny
Date issued 4/20/80 10:20am

S 1/2 B

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from Darlene Schaefer, 122 Trowbridge St. Re: dog leash laws.

In City Council,

April 20, 1980