



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF
THE CITY CLERK

October 24, 1979

Mr. Francis H. McCarran, Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
Construction Engineer, MDC
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. McCarran:

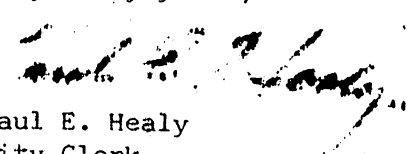
Please be advised that the City Council at the meeting of October 15, 1979 was in receipt of your communication dated October 4, 1979 which is enclosed for your ready convenience.

Some of the membership of the City Council felt that the response was unsatisfactory and requested the City Clerk to communicate this feeling to you and to elicit the opinions of Mr. Peter Gunness, Headmaster of the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, Mr. Joseph Segar, Headmaster of the Shady Hill School, and Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking in the City of Cambridge, regarding the solution for traffic and pedestrian controls at the Mt. Auburn Hospital location as outlined in your letter.

It is possible that a conference with Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking in the City of Cambridge 498-9042, and all concerned might be beneficial in resolving this matter.

Thanking you for your past cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Paul E. Healy
City Clerk

PEH/cs

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Peter Gunness, Buckingham Browne and Nichols School
Mr. Joseph Segar, Shady Hill School
Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission

20 Somerset Street, Boston 02108

October 4, 1979

Mr. Paul E. Healy
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

This is in reference to your letter dated September 20, 1979 forwarding a copy of a City Council Vote dated September 17, 1979 requesting the Metropolitan District Commission to change the operation of the traffic signals near the Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge.

The Metropolitan District Commission completed changes to the traffic signal system which included adding pedestrian Walk-Don't Walk signals, signs, pavement markings, sidewalks, etc. to provide a safe pedestrian crossing.

These improvements were made in response to long standing requests from Mr. Peter K. Gunness, Headmaster of the Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, and Mr. Joseph Segar, Headmaster of the Shady Hill School, for a safe pedestrian crossing for their school children.

In addition to providing for the pedestrian crossing requested by the two schools the changes also eliminated another hazard that existed: namely, merging three lanes of traffic outbound from Boston with the two lanes of traffic coming from Memorial Drive into two lanes on Fresh Pond Parkway. Now the traffic from Memorial Drive is stopped when the outbound traffic from Boston has the green light. This has improved the flow of traffic onto Fresh Pond Parkway and eliminated the safety hazard associated with the weaving and merging traffic.

The present operation of the traffic signals was designed to fit into the previous sequence and timing which is part of a radio-inter-connected progressive system along Fresh Pond Parkway and also provide for the pedestrian crossing and the elimination of the hazardous merging traffic all of which have been accomplished. The present operation does result in some increased delay to certain traffic movements; however, this has been minimized as much as possible.

In investigating your request it was observed that the sight distance for vehicles approaching the traffic signals on Memorial Drive outbound headed toward Fresh Pond Parkway is severely restricted by the sharp curve in the roadway and the presence of low overhanging branches from trees adjacent to the Mount Auburn Hospital. Our maintenance forces have been

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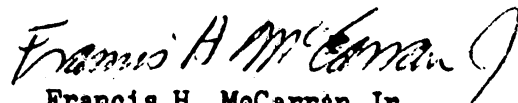
requested to trim these low overhanging branches to provide for improved sight distance for these traffic signals.

The operation of this traffic signal system is accomplishing its intended purpose and the benefits far outweigh the minor inconveniences associated with increased delay for some motorists.

Therefore I do not anticipate any change in the operation of this traffic signal system at this time.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety.

Very truly yours



Francis H. McCarran Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
Construction Engineer, MDC

KWK/nh

c.c. Kevin P. Duggan
George Teso
Peter K. Gunness
Joseph Segar
Kenneth W. Kirwin



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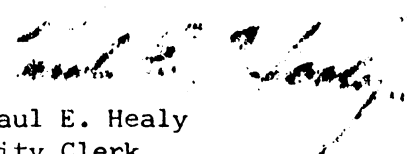
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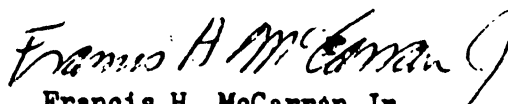
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Construction Engineer, MDC

KWK/nh

c.c. Kevin P. Duggan
George Teso
Peter K. Gunness
Joseph Segar
Kenneth W. Kirwin

Shady Hill School 178, Coolidge Hill Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Joseph C. Segar, Director (617) 868-1260

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
DEC 3 10 42 AM '79
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

November 28, 1979

Mr. Paul E. Healy
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

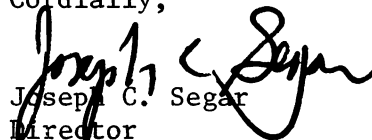
Thank you for sending Mr. Gunness and me a copy of your letter of 24 October addressed to Mr. McCarran of the MDC regarding the MDC traffic signal installation near the Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Both schools have observed a significant improvement in pedestrian safety since the lights were installed and we believe that a change to pushbutton controls would be contrary to the best interest of the children and adults who cross Route 2 on their way to or from Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School.

We are very grateful to the city of Cambridge and to the Metropolitan District Commission for their efforts to insure the safety of pedestrians approaching or leaving our schools and we urgently suggest that those efforts be maintained in their current mode.

We would be happy to participate in a conference with Mr. Teso if that would be helpful.

Cordially,


Joseph C. Segar
Director

cc: Mr. Peter Gunness, Buckingham Browne and Nichols School
Mr. George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking
Mr. Francis H. McCarran, Jr., Construction Engineer, MDC
Mrs. Katherine Dreier
Mr. Frank Duehay

18.
5-636
Comm. from Joseph C. Segar, Director, Shady
Hill School, re: traffic signal insallation
near the Mt. Auburn Hospital.

In City Council,
December 3, 1979

12/3/79
Placed on File-