



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration
Parking Violations
Resident Parking

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
349-4700
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May 5, 1998

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director 

SUBJECT: Council Order #043 dated 3/30/98 and Council Order #2 dated 4/6/98

RE: Report on a policy to assure that all underground garages are posted with stop signs and lights notifying pedestrians that cars are approaching.
Report on how the safety to pedestrians of underground garage exits can be improved.

There was an unfortunate accident in October, 1997 at 875 Mass. Ave.

The Department, at the request of the Police Department and the City Council, reviewed the situation and recommended that the building owner install a stop sign at the back of the sidewalk for cars exiting the garage. That stop sign has been installed.

There is a section of the current zoning ordinance that covers this issue in relation to new construction. The section 6.43.4c is attached.

Commissioner Bersani will review requests for building permits or certificates of occupancy with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, as appropriate, before approving them so that any safety problems are identified and remedied.

Traffic, Parking & Transportation will develop standards for the safe design of driveways that slope up to or down to the sidewalk. These criteria will cover three areas. The maximum allowed slope, requirements for visibility, requirements for traffic and pedestrian warning or control devices. The devices will include items such as signs, mirrors, lights, audible signals, etc. These standards will be used to create a new traffic regulation for implementation in September.

Once the new standards have been developed, they will be sent to the other City Departments and the various Boards and Commissions that will be effected. All efforts will be made to give developers and builders sufficient information that they can design compliance with the new standards into their projects before they ever come to the city for any of their permits.

The License Department will notify the garages they permit that prior to the renewal of their permits in April, 1999 they will be expected to bring their facilities into compliance with the new regulation to the maximum extent possible. The Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department will provide technical assistance to the garage operators in determining what actions they can take. New garage permits from the Licensing Department will also require compliance with the new regulation.

When curb cut applications come to the Traffic, Parking & Transportation Department, they will be reviewed for their safety including the issues identified in the new standards. The Department will not approve curb cuts whose access is not in compliance with the new standards.

CC: R. Bersani

R. Rossi

B. Barnes

D. Drisdell

L. Preston

R. Watson

S. Schlesinger



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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9.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 11, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item Nos. 9 and 12, regarding improving the safety of underground garages, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #9

3395

Regarding improving the safety
of underground garages.

In City Council May 11, 1998

Referred to
City Manager on motion of
Councillor Davis