



**Ronnie Watson**  
*Police Commissioner*

# *City of Cambridge* *Police Department*

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*Director of Planning,  
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**Officer Frank Pasquarello**  
*Aide to the Commissioner*

March 13, 2003

**Robert W. Healy**  
City Manager

## **Re: Council Order 18**

Sir:

I am writing in response to Council Order # 18 regarding a report on providing assistance to the Porter Sq. Neighborhood Association.

Over the past couple of months, the Community Relations Section has been working with the Porter Square Association on safety concerns. The Community Relations Section has conducted a neighborhood meeting on February 20, 2003. Sergeant Murphy, Holly Levins, the Neighborhood Coordinator and other officers attended this meeting. Many of the concerns of the association were addressed in this forum. The suggestions and remedies that were put forth by Sgt. Murphy, and the other Law Enforcement personnel in attendance were sited in the most recent Porter Sq. Neighbors Association publication, "Getting Hassled in Porter Sq". One of the most important responses sited in the newsletter is for citizens to report these types of disruptive behavior exhibited by individuals who frequent the area or loiter. Some of these individuals are homeless vagrants and other individuals are battling substance abuse at the Methadone clinic. The police can address aggressive panhandling, disruptive behavior, sleeping in the ATM's, and other nuisance behaviors. However, these individuals must be reported.

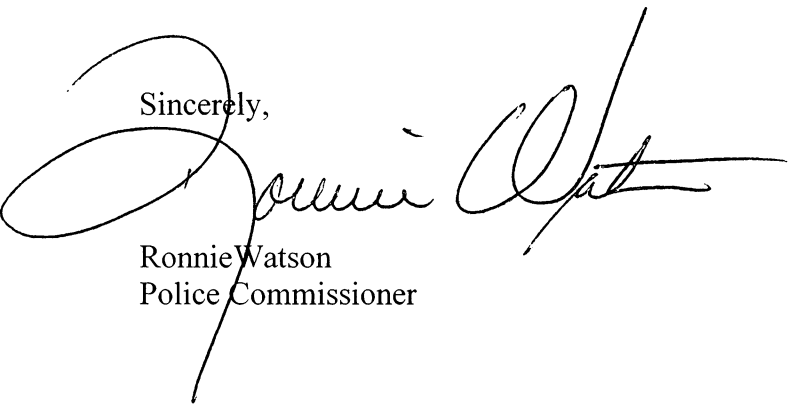
On March 5, 2003, Lieutenant John Sheehan and Sergeant Joseph Keough conducted a meeting with the Auxiliary Police. Superintendent John Graham was advised to have his officers pay particular attention to the Porter Square and areas adjacent to the subway. This will add additional uniform presence to the area.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Since the beginning of the year there have been 28 incident reports in Porter Sq., out of those 28 incidents, there have been 8 arrests. There have been sixty Park & Walks (86's), in Porter Sq. since the beginning of the year, mostly during the times of commuter travel. These directed patrols are to address the issue of homeless people harassing citizens on their way to work in the morning, and also perceived drug dealing. On the night shift, between the hours of 7:00PM and 9:00PM there are directed patrols to address this issue. The Crime Analysis Unit will Monitor the calls, especially "Disruptive Behavior" types of calls to see if we can see any patterns or increases in this type of call due to anticipated increased reporting of such incidents.

Please feel free to call me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ronnie Watson  
Police Commissioner



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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Robert W. Healy, City Manager*

*Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

March 31, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 03-34, regarding a report on providing assistance to the Porter Square Neighbors Association to address safety concerns, received from Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson.

In addition as part of the public process for the redesign of Porter Square, which has included eight public meetings with an advisory committee and the community, City staff have actively listened to neighbors' concerns about safety. The new design enhances pedestrian access by creating a large new plaza area that provides seating for people passing through who may need a place to rest or wait. Personal safety considerations are integrated through the careful choice and placement of seating and other elements in the plaza, creating many access points, clear pedestrian paths and pedestrian-scale lighting.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
Attachment

S-117

**Consent Agenda #6**

**Awaiting Report Item Number 03-34**, regarding a report on providing assistance to the Porter Square Neighbors Association to address safety concerns.

**In City Council March 31, 2003**

**PLACED ON FILE.**