

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

10 MAY 1994

1994 MAY 12 PM 1:40

To:

CAMBRIDGE MA.

William Weld
The State House
RE Super Stop & Shop, Memorial Drive

Dear Governor Weld

A great travesty of both justice and good sense is taking place in your own home city. We need your help to solve the problem and get the proposed super store built. Cambridgeport and Riverside is a mixed community of some 20,000 people, half of them low and moderate income. They will have NO affordable choice accessible to them when Stop and Shop is forced out by the MDC, an agency whose head you appoint. The store proposal that the MDC is preventing from being built is OVERWHELMINGLY supported by the Cambridgeport /Riverside community. All that is needed to get this great amenity restored is for the MDC to allow trucks to travel West on Memorial Drive for 350 yards.

Nobody wants Memorial Drive to be anything but a parkway. But there are already trucks on the drive -this store NEEDS this access, we NEED this store. We should get the other trucks off the Drive, but Stop & Shop will leave if they can't use their proposed traffic plan.

Environmental arguments are also a smoke screen: Right now 30% of Stop & Shop customers WALK to the store. What good is served by forcing our entire neighborhood INTO cars to go buy groceries outside the city or across the other side of Cambridge. Groceries are like sewer and water services: you have to have them, and either the people go to the groceries or the groceries must come to them. It is BETTER for the environment if trucks bring the groceries to the people. LESS traffic, LESS pollution.

Please help us defeat the ELITIST position "Let them eat cake". WE HAVE NO OPTIONS. THIS IS A TRAVESTY. Override the MDC. You have the power.

Yours sincerely



Mark Boyes-Watson

5 Gordon Place
Cambridge
661-7114

cc Cambridge City Council
Commissioner of the MDC
Alvin Thompson
Tim Toomey
Charles Flaherty
Sen. Travaglini

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To:
The Editors
The Boston Globe

10 May 1994

RE Super Stop & Shop, Memorial Drive

A great travesty of both justice and good sense is taking place in our city. Cambridgeport and Riverside is a mixed community of some 20,000 people, half of them low and moderate income. Through political incompetence and brazen elitism our neighborhood is going to lose its only opportunity for a local affordable grocery store. All this because the MDC has refused to allow trucks to travel West on Memorial Drive for 350 yards, during LIMITED daylight hours, and not during the rush hour. The trucks would make NO left turns and use only the "slow" moving lane.

Nobody wants Memorial Drive to be anything but a parkway. But there are already trucks on the drive -this store NEEDS this access, we NEED this store. We should get the other trucks off the Drive, but Stop & Shop will leave if they can't use their proposed traffic plan. For the wealthy western suburbs to be protecting their ability to use Memorial Drive as their scenic commuter route, polluting our city in their cars, while denying a Cambridge neighborhood access to groceries is like Marie Antoinette telling the citizens who were starving for lack of bread to "eat cake".

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The MDC is answerable to the Governor and the legislature. Charles Flaherty, speaker of the house, and Governor Weld, live in Cambridge. The politicians can override the MDC. The question is: are they willing to act on behalf of the common man?

Yours sincerely

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cc City Council, Charles Flaherty, Governor Weld

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5 Gordon Place
Cambridge
661-7114

cc City Council, Charles Flaherty, Governor Weld

Consent Communication # 8 S-234

Comm. from Mary Boyes-Watson, 5 Gordon
Place, in favor of the proposed plan as
accepted by the City Council in June of
1993 for Stop & Shop.

In City Council,

May 16, 1994

Placed on file