



614 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

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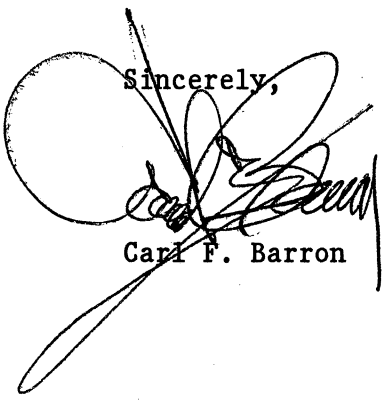
June 30, 1992

Miss Margaret Drury
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Miss Drury:

Enclosed, you will please find a communication to the Cambridge City Council which I would appreciate your distributing to the members of same.

Sincerely,



Carl F. Barron

encl.

CFB/b.7434



614 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

June 30, 1992

Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council

Re: Ban on Sale of Spray Paint

I thought you might be interested in seeing a news article from the May 21, 1992 issue of the Chicago Sun-Times in which a City as large as Chicago, one of the largest in the world, has finally decided to take steps "to deprive graffiti vandals of their weapons of terror and prepare to regulate outdoor pay phones in a crackdown on drug dealers".

Property owners and the business community are constantly called upon to make certain sacrifices on behalf of residents, the underprivileged, and those in need. I have no fault to find with any of this, but I also feel that there should be some equitable reciprocity in the form of making it difficult to vandalize private property, public property, utility poles, etc., which, after all, adversely effects everyone in this City.

I trust that serious consideration might be given to imposing such a similar ban in the City of Cambridge, possibly under certain restrictions that would permit legitimate sales and, at the same time, make it more difficult for those prone to downgrade our City to obtain such equipment.

I am readily aware of the fact that these materials may be obtained in surrounding communities, as well. However, since when does what others do really prevent the City of Cambridge from making up its own mind on major problems, never mind on something of this nature? It might be very useful to be the

Cambridge City Council
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first in this area to institute a preventive step that would certainly help everyone. If a large City such as Chicago can do it, I am hopeful that Cambridge would do so, also.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

cc: Police Commissioner Perry L. Anderson, Jr.
Robert Lewis, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
Combined Cambridge Business Associations
Cambridge Ad Hoc Community Center
CSBA Board of Directors

CFB/b.7433

City Council tags ban on sale of spray paint

By Fran Spielman and Ray Long
City Hall Reporters

The City Council banned the retail sale of spray paint in Chicago Wednesday to deprive graffiti vandals of their "weapons of terror" and prepared to regulate outdoor pay phones in a crackdown on drug dealers.

Frustration over the city's drug and gang epidemics boiled over as aldermen yanked out of committee and passed a two-year-old spray paint ban. It had been put on hold after paint executives agreed to donate thousands of gallons of paint to the city to clean up vandalized buildings.

Chicago, where 4 million cans of spray paint are sold each year at an estimated cost of \$12 million, is the only U.S. city to ban retail sale of the product, according to David W. Lloyd, spokesman for the National Paint and Coatings Association.

"There are other means of committing graffiti," Lloyd said. "You can use shoe polish and glass cutters. You can go outside the city to buy or steal [paint]. . . . Obviously, the aldermen are frustrated and flailing. But I think they've gone too far."

The ordinance approved Wednesday, which takes effect in 60 days, bans retailers from selling spray paint or "markers containing a fluid which is not water soluble and has a point, brush applicator or writing surface of three-eighths of an inch or greater."

Possession of spray paint and markers also

is outlawed, except for building owners or tenants who obtain prior approval from landlords. Violators would be fined \$100 for each offense and could be ordered to perform community service.

Seven years ago, the Council banned the sale of spray paint to minors. Ald. Richard F. Mell (33rd) said that measure did nothing to stop the "mindless 'taggers' who race through our neighborhoods destroying property."

Mell suggested that Cook County Circuit Court begin a pilot "graffiti court" program for vandalism cases. Chief Judge Harry Comerford is studying the idea, according to his spokesman, Bill Kelly.

Ald. Edward M. Burke (14th) said, "In areas where gangs are prevalent, [paint cans] really have become weapons of terror. . . . If they can't buy it in Humboldt Park, they ain't going to drive to Highland Park, that's for sure."

Mayor Daley said he expects a court challenge, but he supports the ordinance.

"People are just so frustrated with [crime] that everybody is attacking it in different ways," he said.

Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3rd) cast the only no vote, saying she was concerned about minority rights under the recent flurry of anti-crime legislation. The Council Wednesday put off a final vote on a controversial ordinance to ban loitering by "known gang members."

The crackdown on pay telephones, some of which have become on-street offices for drug

dealers, was proposed by Daley and eight aldermen.

The ordinance would regulate all outdoor pay phones and empower the city to remove them when monopolized by gang members.

"They're just all of a sudden appearing on private property without any zoning. People want to take back their community," Daley said.

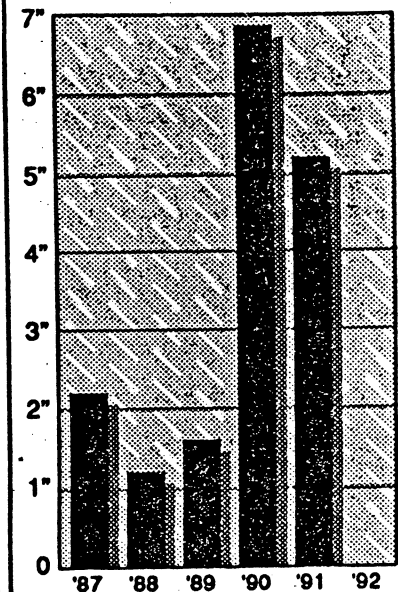
About 200 companies own the phones, estimated at several thousand. By Jan. 1, everyone who owns or maintains a pay phone on a public way would have to sign a regulatory contract with the city or the city could remove the phone and bill the owner.

Companies that already have outdoor pay phones on private property would have until July 1, 1993, to comply with regulations. Installing a phone illegally could result in fines of between \$50 and \$200 a day.

Illinois Bell, which operates 5,000 outdoor pay phones in Chicago, endorsed the mayor's proposal. Last year, the company agreed to restrict access to 250 pay phones in high-crime neighborhoods. The program limits some phones to outgoing calls and restricts others to operator assistance or credit card calls during certain hours.

"We, the city and the Police Department have been getting complaints from residents about people monopolizing public phones and occasionally turning a public phone into their own private business office," said Illinois Bell spokesman Geoff Potter.

MAY RAINFALL



Only a trace of rain has fallen in Chicago so far this month.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

Area parches under record dry spell for last 20 days

By Minette McGhee
Staff Writer

Chicago recorded its driest first 20 days of May ever, but there is a small chance that thunderstorms

Consent Comm. # 31

S-614

Comm. from Carl F. Barron regarding
a ban on the sale of spray paint in the
city.

In City Council,

Aug. 3, 1992

Placed on file