

Jane Dineen  
47 Inman St. Apt. 42  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617 576-1103

April 11, 1988

Dear Cambridge City Council:

I was awakened at 7:25 this morning by the "Street cleaning" loudspeaker (near Erie St.). The system of street cleaning in Cambridge involves towing cars in order to clean the streets, and making horrid loud noises across whole neighborhoods early in the morning. The system is painful to the residents of Cambridge. I don't believe that it is the only possible way, or necessarily the best way to clean the streets.

Would you please consider doing away with this street-cleaning system? The citizens of Cambridge now have to put up with the horrible announcements, and our cars are often towed despite the announcements, either because some lucky people aren't able to hear them or because they have forgotten that they are parked on the side of the street that is to be cleaned.

I protest against this disturbance of the peace by the city of Cambridge. Waking up to that noise is like waking into a nightmare - the raspy voice and scratchy loudspeaker are a very unpleasant introduction to the day. When I am awakened by this noise at 7:30, my night's sleep is cut off by an hour and a half, which I can ill afford to lose. The alternative is to adjust my daily schedule to that of the street-cleaning!

Other cities in other countries do not subject their residents to this kind of treatment, which is not necessary in order to clean the streets! I believe that many cities use people with brooms, who sweep around the cars! I hope you will take this suggestion seriously, as it is intended seriously. If the current method cannot be carried out without causing inconvenience to residents, then you should find a new method, and not continue to wake up the residents and tow their cars!

A few years ago I had a British friend who worked as a street-sweeper in London; he loved the job. Sweepers had a regular route, got to know the residents and shopkeepers along the route, and had a common meeting room where they gathered at the start and finish of the day's sweep. They were not supervised while working, but a supervisor would survey the routes to make sure that the streets had in fact been swept. This system seems to work effectively elsewhere - why not here? It provides jobs for unskilled laborers and should be cost-effective if you don't have to pay for those big cleaning machines.

I really wish you would think about alternatives to the current system of street-cleaning, as I know that many residents of Cambridge are infuriated by it, as I am. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Dineen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Dineen

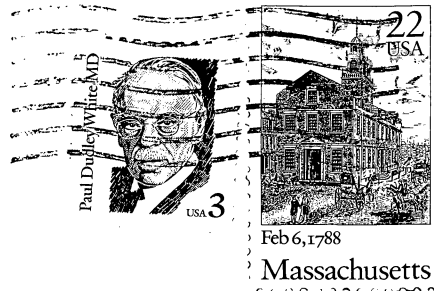
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CAMBRIDGE MA.

J. Dineen  
47. Inman St  
02139

Cambridge City Council  
City Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02139



23.

S-279

Comm. from Jane Dineen Re: street cleaning  
in Cambridge & suggesting an alternative method  
of street sweeping.

In City Council,

April 25, 1988

4-25-88

Referred to the City Manager

copy sent to the City Manager  
4/27/88 mlh