



City of Cambridge

1.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 3, 1992

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: The attached letter from Mr. Shaw of Linnaean Street indicates he has received notice from the City's Department of Traffic and parking that he owes in excess of \$500 for past due parking tickets dating back to 1981, even though he had obtained a release from Traffic and Parking verifying that all fines were paid in full which, as we know, is required by the Registry of Motor Vehicle prior to its renewing an operator's license and/or registration and, in the instant case, the renewal has been provided to Mr. Shaw previously; and

WHEREAS: The apparent response to this problem from Traffic and Parking is that there was a computer problem and verification of Mr. Shaw's having made full payment of fines had fallen through the cracks in the system, but, nonetheless, he must pay the full amount otherwise a release will not be issued and he will not be able to renew his vehicle's registration; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager meet with the Director of Traffic and Parking regarding this incident and made every effort to resolve it in a just, equitable and accountable manner by expunging the alleged debt due and issue a release confirming same to Mr. Shaw; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager direct Mr. Teso to draft a proposal for a definite time period for payment of fines which will be fiscally sound for the city as well as fully accountable to vehicle operators with a stated period of limitation on reaching back over an unreasonable period as is evident in this case; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the City Council on the first Order within one week and on the second Order by February 24, 1992.

In City Council February 3, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy; *Joseph E. Connarton*

ATTEST:-

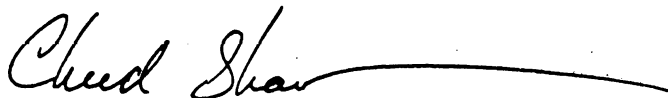
Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

Dear Councilor,

After reading the article on parking meters in the Cambridge Chronicle, I am compelled to voice my outrage at the latest attempt by the Traffic Dept. to raise revenue. I am one of those who received notice of past due parking tickets dating back to 1981 totalling over \$500.00. Anyone knows that in Massachusetts unless all parking fines are paid in full one can not obtain a new license nor register a car. In the past 11 years I have done so twice and each time obtained a release from the Cambridge Traffic Dept. indicating that all fines were paid and that nothing was owed. Now, out of the blue, the City has 'discovered' decade old fines which must be paid along with penalties.

On contacting the Traffic Dept. I was met with a bureaucratic shrug and told there had been a computer problem and that I had apparently fallen through the "cracks" in the system. The amount owed would have to be paid otherwise no release would be issued and my registration would not be renewed. More than 10 years have passed and I, like most people, have no receipts nor cancelled checks to prove these fines were paid. It is my word against that of the Traffic Dept.'s computer system with its costly "cracks" through which I and many others have fallen.

I believe it is time for the Traffic Department to be held accountable to the public for errors and that a statute of limitations should be applied to parking fines so that in another ten or twelve years drivers won't receive notices of indefensible phantom fines from the Cambridge Traffic Department.


Chuck Shaw

Linnaen Street

354-5033



City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

January 24, 1992

- WHEREAS: The attached letter from Mr. Shaw of Linnaean Street indicates he has received notice from the City's Department of Traffic & Parking that he owes in excess of \$500 for past due parking tickets dating back to 1981, even though he had obtained a release from Traffic & Parking verifying that all fines were paid in full which, as we know, is required by the Registry of Motor Vehicle prior to its renewing an operator's license and/or registration and, in the instant case, the renewal has been provided to Mr. Shaw previously; and
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- ORDERED: That the City Manager meet with the Director of Traffic & Parking regarding this incident and make every effort to resolve it in a just, equitable and accountable manner by expunging the alleged debt due and issue a release confirming same to Mr. Shaw; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager direct Mr. Teso to draft a proposal for a definite time period for payment of fines which will be fiscally sound for the city as well as fully accountable to vehicle operators with a stated period of limitation on reaching back over an unreasonable period as is evident in this case; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the Council on the first Order within one week and on the second order by February 10, 1992.

(ATTACHMENT - Mr. Shaw's letter)

274.

Dear Councilor,

After reading the article on parking meters in the Cambridge Chronicle, I am compelled to voice my outrage at the latest attempt by the Traffic Dept. to raise revenue. I am one of those who received notice of past due parking tickets dating back to 1981 totalling over \$500.00. Anyone knows that in Massachusetts unless all parking fines are paid in full one can not obtain a new license nor register a car. In the past 11 years I have done so twice and each time obtained a release from the Cambridge Traffic Dept. indicating that all fines were paid and that nothing was owed. Now, out of the blue, the City has 'discovered' decade old fines which must be paid along with penalties.

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ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to the City Council on the first Order within one week and on the second Order by February 24, 1992.

City Council FEB. 3 1992

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 8 members

Joseph E. Conorton

City Clerk

Consent Order # 1 F-52

Councillor Walsh re: fine paid by Mr.
Shaw which fell thru the cracks due
to a computer problem.

In City Council,

February 3, 1992

Order adopted