

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
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SCIENCE PARK, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114

MAR 24 2 15 PM '75

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

TELEPHONE (617) 723-2500

March 24, 1975

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

In response to your recent letter, we feel that the following factual data about our West Parking Lot may be of interest to you.

This is not a "newly-created" lot. The first part of it (37,480 ft.) was purchased by us in April 1966 after the Banjo Room fire, as the nucleus of what we hoped, by the time of the Bicentennial, would be a much larger area to handle overflow-parking needs during peak periods, even after our garage was finished. That this was sound long-range planning is borne out by the fact that this area is now used every time that more than about 4,500 visitors are in our Museum on any single day.

In October 1972, the rest of this area (50,061 ft.) was acquired from Chevron and the 95-foot frontage on Msgr. O'Brien Highway was increased by 186 ft.

Immediately after purchase of these properties, we removed the old tanks, buildings, pumps, etc., which have made this area an eyesore for many years. We also fenced the entire shore of the Lechmere canal adjacent to this property, as we felt that it constituted a major danger to children playing in the area. The property was filled and graded, and an attractive row of trees was planted along its NE border parallel to Msgr. O'Brien Highway. Granite curbing surrounds the trees. At the time that this work was being done (spring 1973), the MDC promised to repave the sidewalk adjacent to this property along Msgr. O'Brien Highway and recurb it, so that it would be safe, efficient, and attractive. We have taken care of our part of this bargain with the MDC. However, repeated efforts on our part to get the MDC to fix the sidewalk and curbing have produced no results whatever to date. We are still trying hard, as we want to have this area at its best during the Bicentennial traffic peaks. Not to have taken these steps would result in ever-more-frequent on-street parking and traffic jams in

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this area as our museum grows more and more popular. Our annual attendance has grown from 470,000 in 1966 to 800,000 this year, and it is clear that it will be close to one million in the not-too-distant future.

At the time that planning for the regrading and improving of this West Parking Lot took place, every aspect of the work was coordinated with the MDC, so that entrance and egress from the property and number of cars permitted in the area have been set up precisely according to their desires and recommendations.

We believe that these actions were taken in the public interest as well as in the interest of the safety and the convenience of our visitors.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bradford Washburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Bradford Washburn
Director

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Placed in File -
City Clerk to write
another letter to
Benedict Washburn -

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