



City of Cambridge Police Department

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Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Cristina Beamud, Esq.
Legal Advisor

July 21, 1998

Harold F. Murphy
Superintendent

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager

David J. Degou
Superintendent

subject: City Council Order #44, dated 6/15/98

Michael D. Giacoppo
Deputy Superintendent

Sir:

Yvonne M. Hall
Deputy Superintendent

On Saturday, June 13th at 10:20 p.m., a call was received at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) from a female caller on Sacramento Place reporting a fire in the street. Fire Department units responded and found a burnt piece of paper in the street. The paper was already extinguished and, after confirmation of no other fire, the units cleared the scene.

Thomas F. O'Connor
Deputy Superintendent

Gloria A. Pimentel
Deputy Superintendent

Approximately 40 - 45 minutes later, ECC dispatched a sector car (Car 5) and a detective to the scene. The officers found a burnt piece of paper about 2½ to 3 feet from the passenger side rear wheel of the car. A disposable cigarette lighter was recovered under the car. The officers took a report for Attempted Arson from the complainant, Ms. Peggy Averitte.

Lieutenant Steven Williams
Community Relations

Raymond T. Santilli
*Planning, Budget
& Personnel*

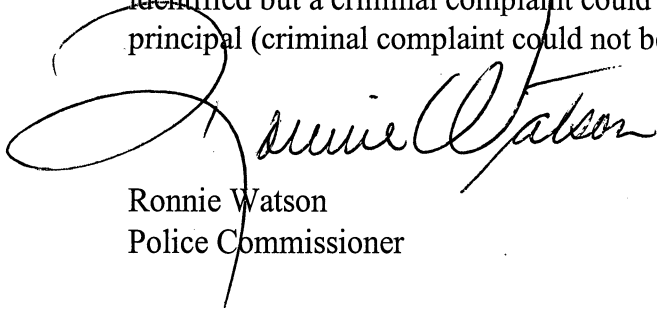
The detective requested the Fire Department's Arson Unit be dispatched to the scene. Arson investigators examined the burned paper but no sign of an accelerant was detectable. There was no detectable odor nor any sign of a "rainbow effect" indicating an oil based accelerant. Several people at the scene including the complainant were interviewed.

Officer Frank Pasquarello
Public Information Officer

The cigarette lighter was processed for fingerprints but none were recovered. On June 16th, five detectives conducted a neighborhood canvas in an attempt to locate witnesses to the incident. No one reported seeing anyone light the fire nor were there any reports of suspicious persons in the area. As a result, this incident has been reclassified as an Intimidation.

The Middlesex District Attorney's Office was briefed on the entire matter with a final judgment on proceeding yet to be determined. The Police Department contacted and briefed the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. They will conduct their own investigation into this matter.

During the course of the past school year, this Department took complaints from various individuals involved at the Agassiz School including cross complaints for threats from two parents (individuals were referred to District Court for magistrate's hearing resulting in the issuance of a restraining order); annoying phone calls to the assistant principal (a suspect was identified but a criminal complaint could not be supported); and annoying telephone calls to the principal (criminal complaint could not be supported).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronnie Watson", is written over the printed name and title.

Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

cc., Superintendent Harold Murphy, Operations Division
Superintendent David Degou, Support Services Division



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

July 27, 1998

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 21, regarding a report on the investigation of the facts surrounding the fire in the vicinity of the Agassiz School principal's car, received from Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #19

5025

Relative to AR #21 regarding a report on the investigation of the facts surrounding the fire in the vicinity of the Agassiz School principal's car.

In City Council July 27, 1998

PLACED ON FILE