



# City of Cambridge

O-10.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

December 18, 2000

COUNCILLOR BORN

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to address the pedestrian safety issues at the corner of Willard Street and Mount Auburn Street as described in the attached letter.

In City Council December 18, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy; *D. Margaret Drury*

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

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## Cambridge Skating Club

40 Willard Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
Telephone: (617) 354-9427

11 December, 2000

Susan Clippinger  
Traffic Director  
City of Cambridge Skating Club  
Traffic, Parking and Transportation  
238 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Clippinger,

In response to the letters concerning the left-hand turn restriction from Mt. Auburn to Lowell and Gibson Streets, dated November 8, 27, and 30, I would like to have my concerns brought to your attention.

I am President of the Board of Incorporators of the Cambridge Skating Club; a community organization that serves many families with young children that is located at the corner of Willard and Mt. Auburn (total membership approximately 400 families). Our members cross Willard at the intersection of Mt. Auburn to enter the clubhouse, the front door of which is near the corner. Because the restrictions on left hand turns at Lowell (and now Gibson) has already increased traffic on Willard St. a serious concern presents itself about the safety of pedestrians, particularly that of children and particularly in the afternoons. In the summer time the facility is used by the Cambridge Tennis Club, which opens at 7 AM.

I have spoken with Mr. Amaral and understand that it is to you that these concerns should be addressed. Traffic is a nuisance to all residents adjacent to Mt. Auburn, but it seems obvious that restricting turns down one street increases traffic down adjacent streets even if there may be some theoretical "overall" reduction in traffic at large. We have noted an increase in traffic based on the figures Mr. Amaral provided to me at the time the sign was first installed at Lowell.

We support the removal of all left turn restrictions at Lowell and Gibson, but we support the removal of afternoon restrictions most of all because that is when children are most likely to be streaming in and out of our clubhouse (perhaps we should have an afternoon restriction on lefts if its removed from Lowell and Gibson?). Part of the dangerous situation is that cars are allowed to park too close to the corner on Willard - it may slow traffic down because of the constriction but it makes it very difficult to look around the corner for either traffic or pedestrians.

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I would like to be kept abreast of any public hearings on this matter and I hope that the signage can be changed to remove the burden of traffic on Willard St. We are anxious to be both good neighbors *and* have a safe street, just like the residents of Lowell and Gibson.

Sincerely,

T.K. McClintock

**Copies: Individually to all City Council Members**

- Kathleen L. Born
- Jim Braude
- Henrietta Davis
- Marjorie C. Decker
- Anthony D. Galluccio, (Mayor)
- David P. Maher, (Vice Mayor)
- Kenneth E. Reeves
- Michael A. Sullivan
- Timothy J. Toomey Jr.

PO-10

#1

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested confer with the Department of Traffic and parking to address the pedestrian safety issues at the corner of Willard Street and Mount Auburn Street as described in the attached letter.

#2

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to follow up on an earlier Council order requesting organizational models for a permanent Open Space Committee per the recommendation of the Green Ribbon Report, and be it futher

PO-11

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Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the council about the possibility of Home Rule legislation to set up a Permanent Open Space Fund, modelled upon the Affordable Housing Trust for the purpose of receiving and distruibuting money for the purchase and impovement of Open Space, including information about what other cities have established such funds through home rule legislation, and information about state legislation currently being introduced through the Mssachusetts Municipal Association which will enable cities to set up such funds as a local option.

#3

Congratulations to Jinny Nathans, lifelong resident of Bow Street in Harvard Square, graduate of Cambridge Latin School, upon her election as President of the Harvard Square Defense Fund.

R-25

BORN



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CM 410

**Order #10**

Pedestrian safety issues at the  
corner of Willard Street and  
Mount Auburn Street.

**Councillor Born**

**In City Council December 18, 2000**

**ORDER ADOPTED**