

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass.

To the Cambridge City Council:

During the weeks since the storms in early January many of the City's sidewalks have been in an impassable and hazardous condition. Icy stretches and walls of frozen snow and ice still impede all but the shortest journeys made on foot, forcing the pedestrian to choose between the dangers of a detour into the street and the risk of a fall on the sidewalk. This situation is a source of grave concern to a broad spectrum of our citizens, and the fact that the City government has done so little to improve matters is especially distressing.

Those who do not drive cars have paid a high price for these sidewalk conditions. The available statistics on injuries due to falls are grim; the high proportion of elderly they include makes them grimmer still. To avoid the hazards these conditions pose for school children on foot, the public schools were closed for more than a week. And who can count the cost to those whose normal activities have been reduced or altogether eliminated by the fear of a bad fall or worse?

We call on the City Council to establish policies now that will avoid a repetition of this sad experience in the future. These policies must include, but need not be limited to the following:

- 1.) Prompt, systematic enforcement of the ordinance requiring shoveling of sidewalks. This can be carried out by the Police and the Law Department, with the assistance of the Traffic Department, parking control officers if appropriate. Measures must be taken to ensure that the courts will back up this effort by fining violators.

- 2.) Compliance with the letter and the spirit of the ordinance by all City departments. The Public Works and School Departments especially can show the same consideration to pedestrians that all property owners are expected to. In particular the Public Works Department should assume full responsibility for penetrating the snow banks made by plows at all pedestrian crosswalks as a matter of the highest priority, and the School Department should require custodians to clear sidewalks around schools.

We believe these and other effective measures can be implemented with little or no addition to the City's budget or work force.

We respectfully urge the City Council in the very near future to hold hearings to find the facts needed to design the new policies on clearing sidewalks and to take the measures necessary to put these policies into effect. We feel certain that well thought out measures, will enjoy the nearly unanimous support of your constituents.

Respectfully

Deanna H. Sullivan

Council of Elders

*Dean R. Johnson, Chairman
Cambridge Transportation Forum*

John P. Sousa

Council of Aging Chairmen

John Pitkin

Board of Traffic and Parking, Member

Feb. 10, 1977

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OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Rye". The signature is fluid and extends to the right.

President
Cambridge Civic Association

9.

S-109

Comm. from Peter Lange, President, Cambridge
Civic Association, et al, re: to the removal of
snow on city sidewalks.

copy sent to Public
Service & CMGR. 3/3/77
as

In City Council,
Feb. 28, 1977

2/28/77

Referred to the Com.
on Public Services

Copy to C. Lange