

881 Massachusetts Avenue, #23
Cambridge, MA 02139

August 1, 1985

Aug 5 3 07 PM '85
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
City of Cambridge
797 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Early Morning Construction Noise

Dear Sir:

I am very angry about the construction activity at the new building under construction at the corner of Lee Street and Massachusetts Avenue that has waked me each morning since they started.

At a public meeting held months ago I was given assurances by the City Zoning Board that construction could not begin before 8:00 am. There were many issues discussed, and one was the starting time. Some residents who were against the building as first presented were assuaged by such promises as the 8:00 am starting time.

Here's what's going on. Workers were on site at 5:15 am moving equipment around and making noise. I didn't exactly get back to sleep but remember being awakened again at 6:45 am. From then on I was wide awake. This cut my night's sleep by almost 2 1/2 hours. This may not sound like a big deal to you, but it is to me. I was exhausted today. I was not effective in important meetings I attended. I am angry at feeling as though I have been led down the garden path. I work out of my apartment. Trying to work with all this pounding going on is almost impossible. But having my sleep shortened debilitates me.

We were told 8:00 am--now we learn it's 7:00 am. I request two things. I know that I am not speaking only for myself here:

1. Change the starting time back to 8:00 am, the time that we were originally told the starting time would be.
2. Make the contractors extremely clear on the point that they must not make one peep before the starting time.

KEEP YOUR PROMISE REGARDING THE STARTING TIME--8:00 AM.
ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT START WORKING AND MAKING NOISE
BEFOREHAND.

Remember, this construction is going on right in the middle of a densely residential area. The construction crews must respect that. We're not building a building in downtown Boston with no one around in the morning or in a development with quarter acre plots. This is right in the middle of an ant hill. What's going on is not good. What I'm interested in is having the living requirements of at least this one resident placed higher than the needs of the contractor.

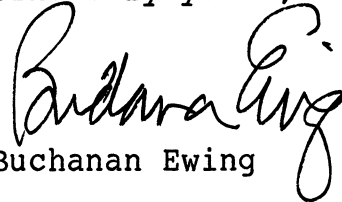
One ther thing. Years ago they have developed sympathetic pile drivers that are much less noisy. Naturally, many construction companies don't invest in them; they'd just as soon make noise. I strongly recommend that the City require sympathetic pile drivers for any work in highly dense residential areas like the one I'm in. To protect your residents, that should be the price of doing business here. Period.

In short, this situation makes me angry, upset, fill in the blank. We were led to believe that starting times would be 8:00. Now I learn they're one hour earlier. And even that time has not been respected. It's affecting me personally, and I don't like it.

Please protect me. The hour is not going to make or break the contractors--but it will require them to change THEIR work schedule a bit.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,


Buchanan Ewing

881 Massachusetts Avenue, #23
Cambridge, MA 02139
August 2, 1985
JUL 30 7 03 PM '85
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
City of Cambridge
797 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Early Morning Construction Noise

Dear City Council:

This letter follows my letter of yesterday. Two points.

One. This morning at 6:10 am (!!!!) a worker in a frontloader woke me up on the construction site just outside. The construction company is not honoring the starting time--even at 7:00 am!

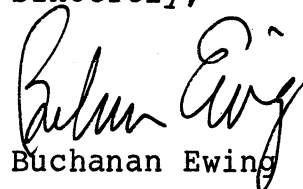
I have worked with construction companies and know that the primary thing that concerns builders and construction companies is how much money they make. It's their primary concern. All else is secondary. They could care less if they wake up the neighbors. Since this is now the third day in a row I have been awakened very early by heavy equipment, what I am wondering about is: Who is going to ensure that the construction company doesn't continually sneak in before they should and wake up the neighborhood?

Two. Given how the construction has been changed my life for over a year, what about Saturday mornings? I certainly hope that the easger beavers aren't given the nod to come in and start working early on a Saturday morning.

Point: If they ARE allowed to come in and work on Saturday, I certainly hope they are not allowed to enter the premises before 9:00 am! Before 9:00 on a Saturday morning would not be right.

Thanks again for your understanding, and your help.

Sincerely,


Buchanan Ewing

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

JUL 33 7 08 PM '85

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

S-540

Comm. from Buchanan Ewing, 881 Mass. Ave., #23
Re: early morning construction noise commencing
at 6:10 a.m. at the corner of Lee St. & Mass.
Avenue.

Copy sent to the City Manager 8/8/85 mh

In City Council,

August 5, 1985

8/5/1985

*Referred to the
City Manager for
Report-*