



ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE MEMO

To: Robert Healy, City Manager

From: George Fernandes, City Electrician

Date: January 16, 1997

Sub: Council Order #035, dated 1/6/97



Re: Plan that provides for an increased level of Holiday Lighting.

This year as with past years we have provided Holiday Lighting on trees installed by Public Works in designated areas throughout the City, some of these trees are temporarily installed for this purpose and others are permanent trees.

The locations are Central Square in front of the Police Station and at Carl Baron Plaza (eliminated this year due to construction), Sullivan Square, Quincy Square (eliminated this year due to Construction), Porter Square, Fresh Pond at the rotary, Inman Square, Neville Manor, Main Library, Harvard Square and Public Works. We also provide lighting on the hedges entering City Hall.

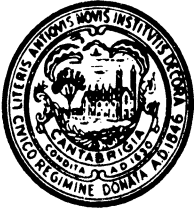
Through your office we also contribute to the cost of Holiday Lighting in Harvard and Central Square. This year as in the past several, Harvard Square has installed lighted banners, two across Mass. Ave. (one in Quincy Square and one near Church Street), JFK Street and Brattle Square. They have also provided wreaths with bows installed by Public Works, on each of the light poles throughout Harvard Square.

Central Square, in the past has installed lighting across Mass. Ave. throughout Central Square, and in some years have also install wreaths with bows on the street light poles. This year Central Square eliminated the decorations partly due to the ongoing construction, and timeliness of having new decorations made. There was also an interest in installing lighting on trees in Central Square, but again construction and costs both hindered their decision, they also inquired about this department providing the labor and equipment necessary to do the installation, but we could not provide the labor for the amount of time necessary, for the work involved.

This past Spring businesses in Inman Square were interested in installing lighting in trees in the square, including Cambridge and Hampshire Streets from Prospect Street to Inman Square, and having them in operation year round, this idea poses problems with providing a source of electric power safely on a permanent bases without exorbitant costs. This lighting was not realized, based on the assumption of the Inman Square Businesses that the City would actually provide the labor for the installation and maintenance of the lighting, which this department could not provide.

I believe there is an interest at each of these locations and maybe others, in having some sort of lighting or decorations for the Holiday Season, but cost is the key element in moving ahead, and probably a lack of knowledge on what equipment and labor is necessary to install lighting, which we could assist with.

It would be a burden for this department to provide labor for both installation and maintenance of all of this lighting with the limited resources available, but if each interested party were to jointly define what is feasible to accomplish this goal and all use the same contractor, this may reduce the costs overall, for installation and maintenance.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
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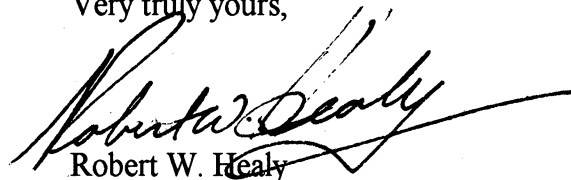
February 24, 1997

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #15 regarding the lack of holiday lights and decorations, please find attached a status report from the City Electrician George Fernandes.

The City will continue to work with business associations with the aim of increasing the level of holiday lighting and decoration in the City.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda #18

S-94

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Fifteen, regarding the lack of holiday
lighting and decorations.

In City Council February 24, 1997

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