



City of Cambridge

23.

IN CITY COUNCIL
~~March 18, 1996~~
March 25, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to respond directly to Timothy James concerning problems raised in the attached letter and report back to the City Council within three weeks concerning how these issues are being resolved.

In City Council March 25, 1996
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Timothy J. Janas
252 Revere Beach Pky #28
Chelsea, MA 02150
(617) 374-2048

February 29, 1996

City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Officials:

I am writing to you in hopes that you can resolve an issue I have with parking enforcement in Cambridge. I am highly dissatisfied with the attitudes of some individuals in the Parking Enforcement office. These people tarnish the reputation of your city with their apathetic approach to their jobs.

In February I received a ticket for allegedly parking in a loading zone in front of **289 Vassar Street**. I wrote a letter to the parking enforcement office detailing why the ticket should be dismissed, the reply was that my arguments were invalid, but I could appeal that decision. The reply listed a phone number, which I called to see if I could resolve this without the hassle of further written correspondence. The people I spoke to gave me the impression that I was hassling them and their disposition was rather negative and confrontational. Maybe I am hassling them, it is only a \$15 ticket. At this point, I do not care if I have to pay the money, I just want to see a change in the way parking enforcement is conducted in Cambridge.

The sign that I parked near is **defaced**. I believe that any sign with an unclear intent or direction should not be used to support parking enforcement. If you would refer to the enclosed documentation, you will get a good sense of what is wrong with this sign. It is my belief that the sign in question was originally installed with the right-pointing arrow covered with a sticker, that sticker has since fallen off, leaving that portion of the sign's arrow **defaced**.


The person I spoke to in Parking Enforcement told me that he had actually examined the sign and could not understand my argument. Either this man is visually impaired or he was looking at the wrong sign. He offered to take another look at the sign if I choose to appeal the ticket again. I am sure that he will do so, as suggested by his overly-positive attitude.

I would also like to point out the crosswalk between 301 and 304 Vassar Street. This crosswalk is about 10 feet wide, it is not really near the corner of a street, it is in need of paint, and it is not in front of any particular doorways. This crosswalk is only painted near the side of the street where vehicles park, thus making it invisible to drivers when cars are parked in front of 301 Vassar Street. The width of the crosswalk makes it look like an empty parking spot. People park their cars in this crosswalk continuously and these people are ticketed regularly, which is justified. Please understand that this crosswalk is a **safety hazard**. People attempting to use this crosswalk are given a false sense of security. Passing vehicles cannot see pedestrians walking out from behind parked vehicles and they cannot see the lines marking the crosswalk. This crosswalk should be cross-hatched, moved, or removed.

It is my opinion that the sign and crosswalk mentioned above are left uncorrected and ambiguous in an attempt to lure people to violate parking regulations. Is the city of Cambridge in such dire financial troubles that you need to resort to such underhanded forms of revenue generation? Does the city feel that it does not need to maintain its signs and crosswalks? Has anyone in Parking Enforcement ever wondered

why particular zones generate an inordinate number of tickets? Have they ever considered that the signs need to be clarified? Is the Parking Enforcement office so understaffed that they do not have time to be courteous to the people they ticket? I challenge you to address my concerns and correct those issues that diminish the quality of living and working in Cambridge.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Janas

Cc: Cambridge City Council, Commissioner of Public Works, Cambridge City Manager, Mayor of
Cambridge

Enclosures: 4

Timothy J. Janas
252 Revere Beach Pky #28
Chelsea, MA 02150

February 20, 1996

Parking Clerk
City of Cambridge
P.O. Box 2004
Cambridge, MA 02139-9113
(617) 374-2048

Dear Clerk:

I am writing to contest a parking violation I received on 2/1/96 near 301 Vassar St. The ticket is for a "C4 - parking in restricted area." When I received my ticket I carefully examined a sign near my vehicle which states "NO PARKING - LOADING ZONE" and has an arrow which points both left and right. When I first parked my vehicle to the *right* of the sign, I had only briefly examined the sign from my vehicle at a distance of over 30 feet, which is what should be reasonably expected of anyone parking their vehicle. I am contesting on the following points:

- The *right* half of the sign's arrow has been defaced - it is only visible when examining from a few feet away.
- The company to which the loading dock belongs to no longer uses the facility - it is empty.
- The loading dock area to the right of the sign was not used by the company when they operated from that location. The loading dock is in severe need of repair, it is basically crumbling and unsafe.
- The sign (#1) which is defaced sits between two loading dock areas. There is a sign (#2) to the left of the defaced sign which marks the other end of the loading zone. This second sign also had a double ended arrow, but the *left* portion of the arrow has been covered over, presumably by the city since the area to the left of that sign is valid parking. I contend that the first sign was also altered by the city, but the alteration fell off.

Basically, there are two signs marking the loading zone. The sign(#2) on the left had an arrow pointing left and right, but was altered to point only to the right. The sign on the right has an arrow pointing left and right, it appears to have been altered to point only to the left, but the alteration fell off and the right pointing portion of the arrow is now severely scratched off. I parked to the right of the arrow in front of what used to be a loading dock perhaps 10 years ago - today it is in ruins, that is why the sign was altered.

I would also like to bring to your attention the cross-walk between 301 and 304 Vassar St. It is not at the corner of any streets, it is barely visible, it is 10 feet wide, it is not cross-hatched, and it is not in front of the doorway to any building. The army couldn't camouflage this crosswalk any better. This crosswalk is useless, it doesn't resemble a crosswalk, and I think it's purpose is only to get people to illegally park there and to fool pedestrians into stepping in front of traffic with a false sense of security.

Please contact me at the above address or phone number in regards to your decision about this ticket, thank you.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Janas

Enclosures: 2



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Traffic and Parking

57 Inman Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Administration 349-
Parking Violations 349-
Resident Parking 349-
Pay By Phone

02/23/96

JANAS TIMOTHY J
252 REVERE BCH PKWY
CHELSEA

MA 02150

DEAR SIR/MADAM:
RE: STATE/PLATE MA226XAG

#35

THE OFFICE OF THE PARKING CLERK IS INFORMING YOU THAT THE TICKET(S) BELOW CANNOT BE DISMISSED FOR THE REASONS STATED IN YOUR CORRESPONDENCE. YOU DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS TICKET(S) AT A HEARING. HOWEVER, HEARING OFFICERS CANNOT DISMISS VALIDLY ISSUED TICKET(S) WHICH CONFORM TO PARKING RULES AND REGULATIONS.

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS NOTICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT. CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

IF YOU DESIRE TO APPEAL, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THIS NOTICE TO CAMBRIDGE TRAFFIC AND PARKING, 57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139 WITHIN 10 DAYS.

IF NOT, PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT BELOW WITHIN 10 DAYS. MAIL YOUR PAYMENT ALONG WITH THIS NOTICE TO 57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139 OR PAY IN PERSON AT THE SAME ADDRESS. TO MAKE PAYMENT BY TELEPHONE WITH MASTERCARD/VISA, DIAL (617) 491-7277.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES CALL 349-4705.

TRICIA Kelly

DETACH HERE

DATE:02/23/96 LETTER# 035

PLATE:MA226XAG

TICKET # DATE AMOUNT
088489656 02/01/96 \$15

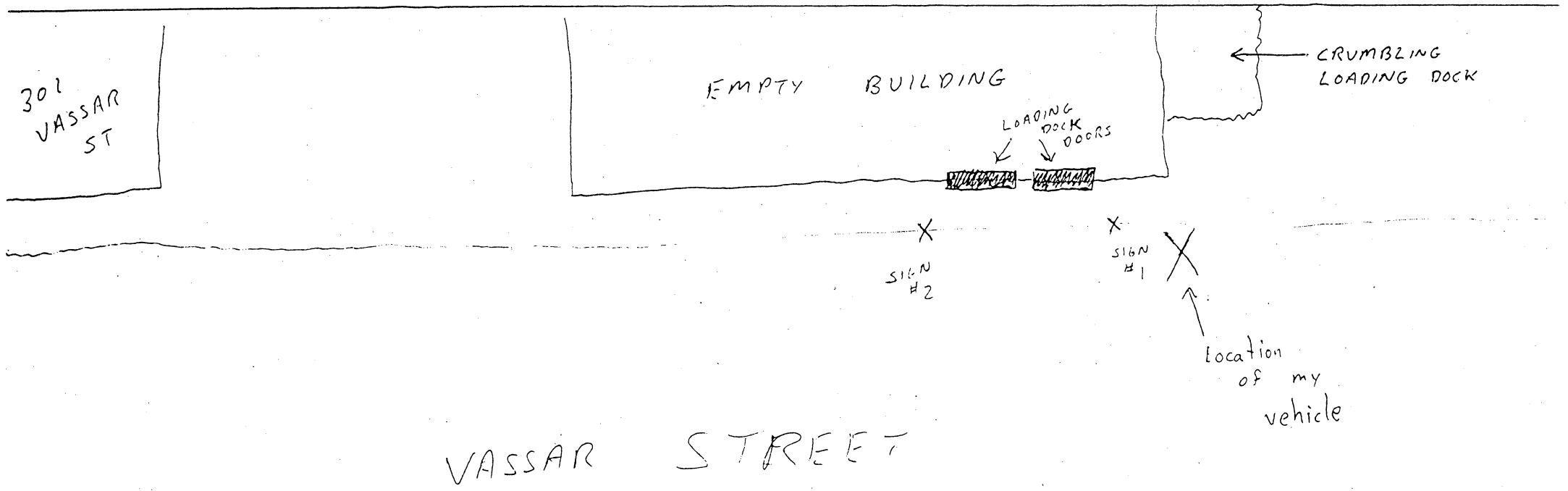
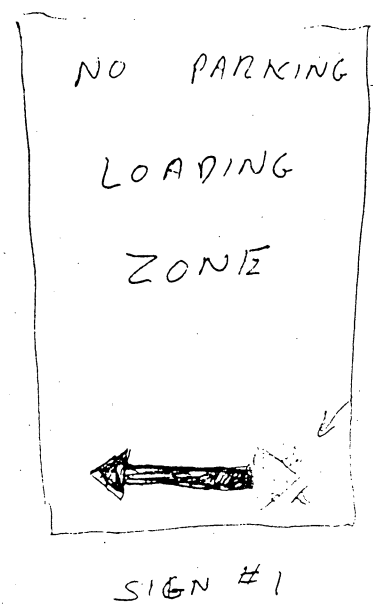
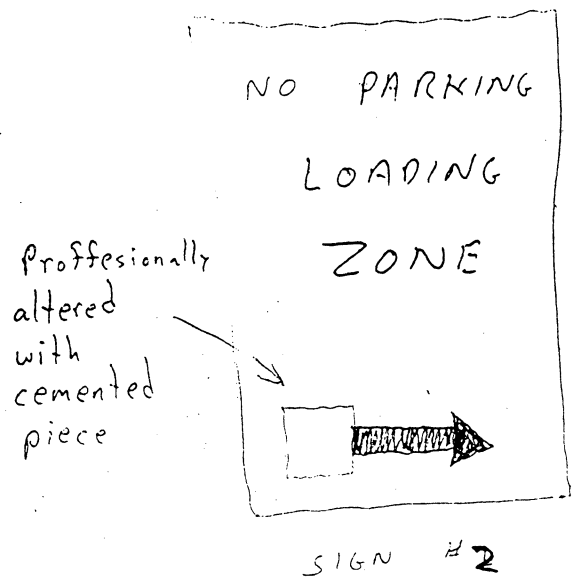
TICKET # DATE AMOUNT

NOTICE NUMBER
276054 00037

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$15

SIGNATURE DATE

08848965601527 21



Duehay- For meeting of March 18, 1996

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Timothy J. Janas
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February 29, 1996

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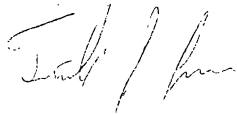
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Janas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "J".

Timothy J. Janas

Cc: Cambridge City Council, Commissioner of Public Works, Cambridge City Manager, Mayor of
Cambridge

Enclosures: 4

Timothy J. Janas
252 Revere Beach Pky #28
Chelsea, MA 02150

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Enclosures: 2

30



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Traffic and Parking

57 Inman Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Administration 349-4
Parking Violations 349-4
Resident Parking 349-4
Pay By Phone

02/23/96

JANAS TIMOTHY J
252 REVERE BCH PKWY
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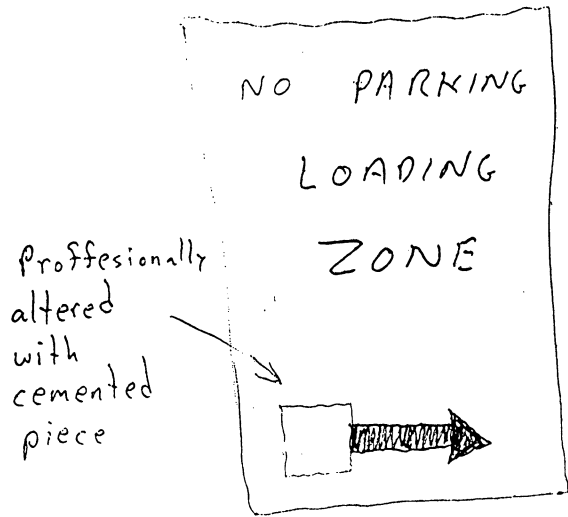
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NOTICE NUMBER
276054 00037

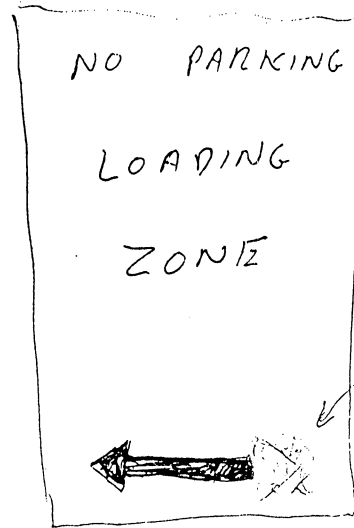
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SIGNATURE----- DATE-----

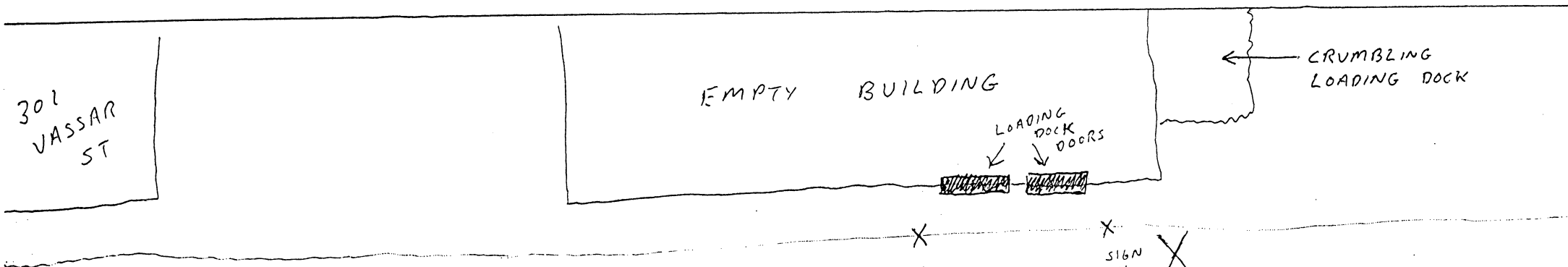
08848965601527 21



SIGN #2



SIGN #1



VASSAR STREET



City of Cambridge

23.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation to respond directly to Timothy James concerning problems raised in the attached letter and report back to the City Council within three weeks concerning how these issues are being resolved.

Born, Davis, Galluccio, Reeves
Consent Order #23 Sullivan CM-135

Councillor Duehay re: Problems with
parking enforcement in Cambridge.

Triantafyllou

In City Council March 18, 1996

3/25/96

Order adopted

23