



# City of Cambridge

18.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 22, 1993

COUNCILLOR WALSH  
 VICE MAYOR CYR  
 COUNCILLOR MYERS  
 COUNCILLOR RUSSELL  
 COUNCILLOR WOLF

WHEREAS: Andrew Tauber of 367 Harvard Street, Apt. #3 has sent the enclosed letter of complaint; and

WHEREAS: From my own experiences, I witnessed many cars parked for more than 24 hours in one spot throughout the city; and

WHEREAS: This particular ticket seems to be selective enforcement of the city's parking regulations as to motor vehicle storage for over 24 hours and unfair and unequal treatment of this citizen; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to ask the Traffic and Police Departments to give a report as to the enforcement of the so-called storage rule and outline the number of tickets given per year with particular attention paid to the areas where this ticket was given and to state what the City's policy is on enforcement of this type of parking regulation.

In City Council March 22, 1993.

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

367 Harvard Street #3  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
March 12, 1993

William Walsh  
Councilor, City of Cambridge  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councilor Walsh,

I write in regard to enforcement of the city's parking regulations, specifically the rule against the "storage" of cars on city streets. Today I found a \$15 ticket on my car for having been parked more than 24 hours in one spot. Leaving aside the fact that I can ill afford the \$15, I find the rule substantively misguided.

As an environmentally conscious citizen, I attempt to use my car as little as possible, preferring to go by foot, bike or T whenever I can. I reserve driving for major shopping excursions or trips into the suburbs and beyond. This means that I generally use my car once or, at most, twice a week. Thus, as a matter of regular course, my car stands in one spot for several days at a time.

Commendably, public officials routinely urge residents to use the T and other forms of alternative transportation so as to relieve traffic congestion and air pollution. Unfortunately, as I today discovered, such exhortation is mere lip service. The Cambridge parking regulation against "storage" of cars for more than 24 hours creates a major financial disincentive for ecologically desirable behavior. If automobile owners are slapped with a \$15 fine each time they opt to walk, ride a bike or take the T rather than drive, they will clearly choose to drive more frequently than they would absent such a penalty.

I request that you repeal the "storage" rule, or at least amend it so that it does not deter citizens from environmentally responsible behavior. I understand that the city does not want unregistered jalopies littering its streets. But surely a rule could be crafted that prohibits the growth of curbside junkyards without at the same time penalizing those, like myself, who try to use their cars as little as possible.

On a distinct but nonetheless related point... Today's ticket was the first of its kind that I have received, despite years of living in Cambridge. Indeed, it is only as a result of the ticket that I learned of the "storage" rule's existence. I cannot help but wonder why I have suddenly been fined for something that I have done for years. Is the city trying to

balance its books through tougher enforcement of minor laws? You would know better than I, but this does not seem to be the case. None of my neighbors have been fined, despite leaving their cars in one place for more than 24 hours. My misfortune seems rather to have been the result of some sort of selective enforcement. I would hope that city employees, be they police or parking officers, are instructed to apply laws in an even-handed manner. Needless to say, I am not advocating that they enforce each petty rule with robotic severity; I am simply asking that they exercise their discretion with reason and not caprice.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew Tauber

## FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM/LAW OFFICES

Telephone Number: 547-1772

Facsimile Number: 491-0923

DATE: 3/18/93

TO: Jackie Flynn

FROM: Bill Walsh

Telephone:

Fax: 349-4307

If you do not receive 6 pages including this cover sheet,  
please call immediately.

## REMARKS:

- ① Tauber order - consent
- ② Massachusetts Ethics Commission - consent
- ③ Chapter 8.24 order - non-consent

Any questions, call 63

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CGM-101



# City of Cambridge

*C/18*

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March 18, 1993

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CONSENT ORDER #18

*Mr. Walsh*  
*Miss Walsh*  
*Walsh* CM-90

Councillor Walsh re: Report as to the enforcement of the storage rule from the Traffic and Police Departments.

In City Council,

March 22, 1993

*Order Adopted*