

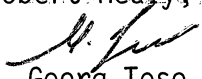


CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert Healy, City Manager

Date Feb. 11, 1991

From  Georg Teso, Traffic Director

Reference

Subject City Council Order #14 Dated 2-4-91 Re: Snow Emergencies

I have viewed the City Council Order stating that a snow emergency be declared when the depth of the snow reaches two inches. It is my opinion that to declare a snow emergency at this state of a storm would create many more problems than it would solve. Foremost of which would be the unnecessary moving of vehicles by our residents only to find out that there was no need for it.

As you know, we do not have adequate parking spaces to accommodate the motor vehicles that would have to move. That is the reason that we have our major arteries posted for snow emergency on both sides of the street and our residential streets are posted on one side. It has also been my experience that the number of storms that required a snow emergency has dropped over the years and these were declared when we knew that we would receive from 5 to 8 inches of snow depending on the type of snow the duration of the storm and the type of weather that followed the storm. Some of these emergencies were declared with no snow on the ground with the belief that it is better to be safe than sorry.

It is also my opinion that the snow emergency and snow plowing procedures now used are best suited to the City of Cambridge and its residents. These procedures are discussed by all affected agencies prior to the winter season at a meeting with the city manager.

What happens now is that upon a warning of an impending storm, the city manager, public works commissioner, police chief and traffic director along with their key personnel try to analyze all the data at their disposal such as weather reports and our own weather service as to the size of the storm, the type of snow fall and the weather that will follow. A decision is then determined on whether to declare a snow emergency or not.

Upon declaration of a snow emergency the city's snow plowing operations is put into effect. The public works Department prepares their equipment and their sector foreman are given their instructions, the police department sets up it towing officers and notifies the tow companies to prepare for towing during the storm. The traffic department sets up its information section notifying all the media of the snow emergency and all local public and private agencies of the time the snow emergency goes into effect.

The traffic department also mans their telephones to answer questions by residents of where they can or cannot park. The traffic department also assists the public works department in plowing parking facilities and cleaning sidewalks.

These proecedures are reviewed every year and new ideas are proposed and used to improve our snow plowing operations. As I stated before this is, in my opinion, the best way to handle snowstorms in a congested city like Cambridge and over the years we have made mistakes but we also have kept our streets in good shape compared to some of our neighbors.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

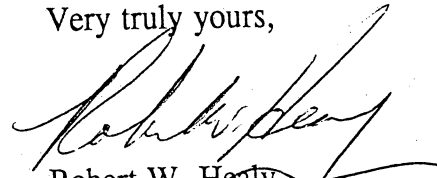
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 25, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 40, regarding a policy for snow emergencies, please find attached a report from George Teso, Director of Traffic & Parking, concerning this issue.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT Agenda # 10 S 300

Awaiting Report, Item Number 40 regarding
a policy for snow emergencies.

In City Council,

February 25, 1991

Placed on file