

Nov. 22, 1983

407 A Broadway

Cambridge, Mass. 02138

DEC 1 9 11 AM 1983
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

City Council members
City of Cambridge

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing this letter as a protest to the driveway proposed to be built across the back of the property at 407 A Broadway of which we are tenants. We never even knew that right-of-way had been given to the purchaser of 409 Broadway until I confronted someone in our yard who said he was a friend of the new owner, and that she had asked him, as an architect, to make some sketches for her, although he then denied knowing what she intended to do with this right-of-way. We didn't learn of her plans to put in the driveway until I confronted another trespasser in the yard who said she was taking pictures to present as evidence at a city council meeting. From a phone call, we found that the proposal had already been brought once before the city council and had not passed then only because the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association had objected. It would have been nice if the MCNA or anyone at any point had informed the tenants who would be affected about what was going on!

We already live at the corner of a very busy, noisy street intersection -- Broadway and Dana. We really don't need car noises and fumes coming at us from yet a third side.

In addition, we already have no front or side yard -- the owner paved those areas over with asphalt years ago. The bushes in the back, half of which would be cut down to make room for the driveway, provide a green screen, and the only place to sit out in the yard with any privacy at all. And, I have planted a small garden back there, including some very pretty spring-flowering bulbs -- not much, but a driveway would pave alot of that over and only leave half of 'not much', which is even less.

Also, the garbage cans for the building are kept in the back of the house; a driveway would leave no room for them. They would have to be left along the side of the house again, where they were a neighborhood eyesore and a great deal of trouble for us since people from other buildings on the block used to dump their garbage next to ours.

A driveway would also be unpleasant for the house next to us on Dana St. Their house ends right on the property line and the driveway would be right next to their front window, and they would look out their back porch to see a car parked five feet away.

Street parking, while not the easiest thing in the world, has always been adequate and reasonable for the tenants of these buildings. Why does the new owner of 409 need to be able to drive her car to her back door, to the inconvenience of all but she, when she can park within close proximity to her front door, and walk a few steps like everyone else?

This letter is being written not only for us, the present tenants, but for future tenants or buyers of the building and property, for the appearance of the neighborhood in general, and for the sake of saving

at least a little bit more of greenery from being cemented over. Please do not approve this driveway; it is just another bit of injustice being attempted by a new landlord who is already trying to displace her tenants even while she owns another house in Newton. She has said she is moving here because she just wants to live in Cambridge; if that is the case, perhaps she should start learning to have consideration for her new neighborhood and the people she will be living near.

If there are any questions in regard to this letter, you can contact Frances Eisemann at 497-1289. She is one of the tenants at 407 A. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Frances Eisemann

Alexander D. Luis

Deborah R. Smith

Hans D. Strach

Comm. from Frances Eisenman, et al, residents
of 407A Broadway, in opposition to the petition
of Ruth Hiller for a driveway at the side of
407A Broadway on Dana St.

In City Council,

December 5, 1983

12/5/83

Referred
to

The

Petition

(copy placed with Hiller petition
12/7/83/mh)