



13.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

December 9, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-97, regarding a report on unsafe parking and safety implications of illegal parking on narrow streets and alleyways, Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger reports the following:

The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department has and will continue to work closely with the Police Department and the Fire Department to continue to identify public and private ways where parking obstructs emergency vehicle access. Since the establishment of the Traffic Department, the City has posting "No Parking" restrictions on roadways that have been identified as problem locations.

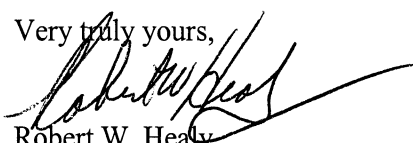
The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Police Department aggressively enforce public safety restrictions throughout the city. The major public safety restriction found throughout the city is the minimum 20-foot corner clearance. This restriction is a Massachusetts State Law, as a result, sign posting is not required. However, the Traffic Department does sign this restriction at intersections with high vehicle congestion.

Other public safety restrictions include, parking within 10 feet from a public or private fire hydrant, and on narrow public and private roadways and access roads. On narrow roadways and access roads the Massachusetts State Law requires that 10-feet of clearance remains accessible at all times. As a result of this state law many narrow streets within the city have a "No Parking" public safety restriction on one side or both sides of the street.

Currently, illegally parked vehicles on the public way are tagged during the Parking Control Officers daily route assignment. Both Police Department and the Traffic Department also enforce these restrictions if a complaint is received. On private ways the Police Department enforces public safety restrictions on a complaint basis only.

The Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department and the Police Department have issued over 110,000 parking tickets for public safety violations this year. The penalties range from \$100 for obstructing a Handicapped Access Ramp, \$25 for parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant and \$15 for all other violations. Current Massachusetts State Law limits the maximum penalty amount to \$15.00 for many public safety violations, including corner clearance and obstructing narrow streets. The Traffic Department does not have the authority to increase the penalty amount without State Legislation.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

S-371

Consent Agenda #13

Awaiting Report Item

Number 02-97, regarding a report on unsafe parking and safety implications of illegal parking on narrow streets and alleyways.

In City Council December 9, 2002

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