



City of Cambridge

21.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 12, 1994

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to review the attached communication from John F. Perkins and Marcie A. Mitler, a Newport Road #2 concerning the traffic intersection and pedestrian crosswalk at Massachusetts Avenue and Linnaean Street, and be it further requested that a response be made to address the concerns.

2 Newport Road, #2
Cambridge, MA 02140
November 29, 1994

Sgt. Ahearn
Traffic Division
Cambridge Police Department
5 Western Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Sergeant Ahearn:

We are sharing our concern with you about a particularly dangerous traffic intersection and pedestrian crosswalk at Massachusetts Avenue and Linnaen Street. This, as you must know, is the busiest intersection on Mass Ave between Porter and Harvard Squares. There is very heavy pedestrean traffic at this intersecion because it lies in the heart of the Agassiz and Avon Hill neighborhoods. We have lived in the vicinity of this intersection for seven years and witnessed many accidents and reckless driving incidents at it. I'm sure that the police and fire department records if researched would indicate this as well.

During evening rush hours the intersection is particularly dangerous to pedestrians. The timing mechanism on the traffic light only allows a ten second "WALK" light for people who need to cross Mass Ave. This occurs on a 4 lane boulevard where cars frequently travel at speeds in excess of thirty miles an hour and there are many elderly and children crossing at this light. Many motorists can be witnessed making illegal U-turns as well as "running" the red lights. Because of these factors we are worried for the safety of our school age children and other children and elderly in the neighborhood. Several summers ago, police on traffic duty were stationed at this intersection. We are testifying that this acted as a noticeable deterrent to otherwise all too frequent acts of unsafe driving at this location. If this could be done again, coupled with adjustment of the light to allow for a longer "WALK" light, hopefully a potential PEDESTRIAN FATALITY will be averted.

Thank you,



John F. Perkins
Marcie A. Mitler

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓



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COUNCILLOR BORN
MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

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In City Council December 12, 1994
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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Born, Dulhay, Reus,
Russell, Triantafillou

Consent Order #21

CM-425

Councillor Toomey, Sullivan re: Adjust
timing of the "WALK" signal on Mass Ave.
at Linnaean Street.

report received 1/9/95
See Agenda # 7 of
1/9/95

In City Council December 12, 1994

Order adopted