

RECEIVED BY
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

1987 FEB 17 AM 9:20
FEB. 10, 1987
CAMBRIDGE MA.

GEORGE TESO
PARKING COMMISSIONER
CAMBRIDGE, MA.

DEAR MR TESO,

WE HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH YOU A NUMBER OF TIMES REGARDING THE HORRENDOUS PARKING PROBLEM IN THE COURT HOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD DUE PRIMARILY TO THE ILLEGAL USE OF VISITOR PARKING PERMITS.

WE HAVE NOTICED A LARGE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF V.P.s AND THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THROUGH ON YOUR PROMISE TO HELP END THAT ABUSE.

(THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE PARKING PROBLEM HAS BY ANY MEANS GONE AWAY!.. MY OWN HOUSE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ON A CORNER LOT AND, ALMOST ALWAYS, ALL FOUR STREET SPACES ARE FILLED WITH ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS FROM THE COURT HOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, EAST END HOUSE, OR THE D.A.s OFFICE. IN FACT, HERE ARE NOW.. AT 8 A.M., MONDAY MORNING, 21 V.P.s PARKED IN THE 4 BLOCKS BOUNDED BY 3RD, 5TH, HURLEY, AND THORNDIKE ST!)

THIS LETTER ASKS YOUR HELP IN EASING THE PROBLEM STILL FURTHER BY AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCING THE REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO TWO OTHER BLATANT, AND ILLEGAL , PARKING ABUSES:

- 1-"PLEASE-NO PARKING-HANDICAPPED" SIGNS
- 2-BARREL AND BEACH CHAIR TURF PROTECTION

"PLEASE" SIGNS

ALTHOUGH WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE, THE "PLEASE" SIGNS ARE STILL THERE AND REPRESENT, IN THE 3RD ST. TO 5TH ST. NEIGHBORHOOD ALONE, 15 VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHABLE AND PRIVATE PARKING SPACES ON THE PUBLIC STREETS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE IS NOWHERE NEAR 15 HANDICAPPED DRIVERS, WITH REGISTRY HANDICAPPED PLATES, IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! PARKING SPACES FOR THE HANDICAPPED ARE ONLY FOR HANDICAPPED DRIVERS WHO HAVE HANDICAPPED REGISTRY PLATES ON THEIR CAR; OTHERS WHO HAVE THESE SIGNS HAVE THEM AT THE CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE OF THE REST OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

PARKING SPACES ARE AT A VERY HIGH PREMIUM. WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE PRECEDENT OF THE REGISTRY AND ISSUE RESERVED HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES ONLY TO HANDICAPPED DRIVERS WHO HAVE MET THE REGISTRY STANDARDS. THOSE ARE ALREADY THE CITY'S REGULATIONS.. WE NEED ONLY TO ENFORCE OUR OWN REGULATIONS.

PLEASE REMOVE ALL THE "PLEASE" SIGNS. THE TRULY HANDICAPPED DRIVERS CAN LEGITIMATELY OBTAIN THE NEW "HANDICAPPED, NO PARKING-TOW ZONE" SIGNS AND THE REST OF US CAN THEN COMPETE FAIRLY FOR THE STREET.

BARRELS AND BEACH CHAIRS

OUR PROPOSAL IS AGAIN BASED ON THE FACT THAT NO ONE OWNS THE STREET. SNOW ACERBATES THE PARKING PROBLEM IN THE CITY AND THOSE WHO PUT OUT BARRELS TO SAVE "THEIR" SPACE MAKE PARKING EVEN MORE EXASPERATING... IT

IS A PREPOSTEROUS AND MOST UNNEIGHBORLY PRACTICE WHICH HAPPENS ALSO TO BE ILLEGAL AND SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE.

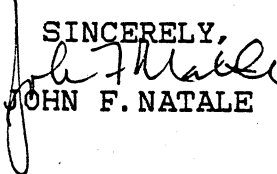
NO ONE OWNS THE STREET..EVEN IF HE/SHE SHOVELED OUT THE CAR FROM 1 INCH OR 1 FOOT OF SNOW . IN MY OPINION, THE BEACH CHAIR BUNCH LOVE TO SEE AN INCH OF SNOW EVERY 3 WEEKS SO THEY CAN USE THEIR BARRIERS TO PHYSICALLY HOLD ON TO "THEIR" TURF. A "TRESPASSER" RUNS THE REAL RISK OF SERIOUS DAMAGE TO HIS/HER CAR ..LAST WEEK, JAN. 26, I KNOW OF 3 INSTANCES OF TIRE SLASHING IN MY IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD! THE CITY COULD PROTECT US ALL FROM THESE HOOLIGANISMS, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, MAKE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT USE OF THE STREETS, IF IT WOULD AGGRESSIVELY PROHIBIT THE USE OF THESE ILLEGAL BARRIERS.

PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR HOUSE ALL DAY OR ALL WEEKEND, PUT OUT THE BARRELS, AND ARE ASSURED THEIR "SPOT" IS PROTECTED INDEFINITELY. IT SEEMS TO ME TO BE LUDICROUS THAT AN EMPTY BARREL SHOULD OCCUPY A VALUABLE PARKING SPACE FOR A WHOLE DAY OR MORE WHILE THERE IS LITERALLY NO PLACE FOR REAL CARS TO PARK! THIS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS PRACTICE IS WIDE SPREAD IN EAST CAMBRIDGE ..TYPICALLY, MORE THAN 75% OF THE EMPTY SPACES ARE DEFENDED WITH BARRIERS..AN EXTREMELY INEFFICIENT USE OF THE STREET! ONE ULTIMATELY ENGAGES IN THIS FORM OF STREET WARFARE AS A MATTER OF SELF-DEFENSE (AFTER 6 YEARS OF RESISTING, I RETALIATED WITH MY OWN BARRELL LAST WEEK!). A FEW ARE EVEN ARROGANT, BRAZEN AND UNNEIGHBORLY ENOUGH TO USE THEIR BARRELS ALL YEAR!.. THIS CAN NOT BE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME.

PLEASE TREAT THE WINTER JUST AS THE SUMMER..PLEASE REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE REGULATIONS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS PRACTICE AND ENFORCE THE RULES. I BELIEVE THAT THE DIRECT APPROACH WOULD WORK BEST, I.E., TOUR THE CITY PERIODICALLY WITH A TRUCK AND SIMPLY REMOVE ALL ILLEGAL BARRIERS AND REMOVE THEM ALSO ON TRASH DAY.

WE CAN'T CREATE ANY MORE PARKING SPACE ON THE STREETS BUT WE CAN USE THE SPACE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND MUCH MORE FAIRLY.
I HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM BOTH OF THESE AGGRAVATIONS BEFORE THIS WINTER HAS PASSED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

SINCERELY,

JOHN F. NATALE

CC:

RICHARD ROSSI, ACTING COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC WORKS
EAST CAMBRIDGE PLANNING TEAM
EAST CAMBRIDGE STABILIZATION COMMITTEE
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
CAMBRIDGE CITY MANAGER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

9.

8-1282

Comm. from John F. Natale, transmitting a copy of his letter to the Traffic Commissioner Re: parking problems in the neighborhood surrounding the Courthouse.

In City Council,

February 23, 1997

Referred to the City
Manager and Traffic
Director

2/25/87 - copy sent to the
City Manager + Traffic
Director