



City of Cambridge

Agenda Item #2

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 12, 1996

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That Agenda Item Number Two, a communication from City Manager Robert W. Healy, regarding the procedure for notifying/ticketing property owners, be referred back to the City Manager with the request that proposed ordinance changes to improve the process, as discussed in the communication, be prepared for the Council's consideration.

In City Council February 12, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

2/12/94

Agenda #2

C. Davis

Ordered: That ^{Number} Agenda Item ~~As~~ Two, a communication from City Manager Robert W. Healy, regarding the procedure for notifying/ticketing property owners, be referred back to the City Manager with the request that ~~that City Manager be directed to proposed ordinance changes~~ proposed ordinance changes to improve the process, as discussed in the communication, be prepared for the Council's consideration.

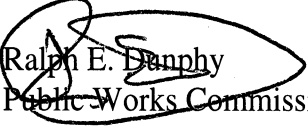
v/9



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: 
Public Works Commissioner

Date: February 1, 1996

Subject: **Council Order #049, dated 1/8/96**
RE: Procedure for Notifying Property Owners
and Ticketing Owners Who Are Not
Shoveling Sidewalks

RECEIVED
96 FEB - 5 AM 9:19
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DPW Inspectors drive through the streets of Cambridge daily looking for sidewalks that are not properly cleared of snow and ice. Inspectors are also directed to these locations through the DPW's new hotline number (349-4903) for citizens to report violations.

After noting addresses of sidewalk violations, Inspectors check the computer (City's Digital Vax System) to see if a "warning violation" was previously issued. If a "warning violation" was given during the present snow season he/she will then be sent a \$25.00 per day fine until the property is properly cleared.

Public Works is currently using the FY96 Real Estate Commitment List" issued by the Assessor's Office to send violations to property owners.

It is apparent that the "clear sidewalk" Ordinance continues to frustrate many City residents. The expectation that the Ordinance's aim of clean sidewalks is clearly not happening. Residents want the neighbor's sidewalk cleared and the Ordinance only allows the DPW to warn and then fine property owners for not shoveling.

The question often comes, then, why doesn't DPW shovel the walk and bill the owner? The simple answer, obviously is that the Ordinance language does not authorize that and honestly even if it did this Department would not be able to respond appropriately given the Department's snow responsibilities.

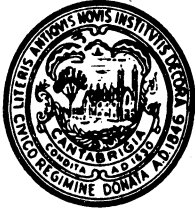
Given that the Department could not take responsibility for clearing delinquent sidewalks, who can or should?



First, let me say that in order to attain the goal of all sidewalks being cleared of snow/ice needs an enormous amount of community involvement and clearly an Ordinance change. An Ordinance needs to be drafted that speaks to the City's ability to clear the sidewalk and then charge the property owner for those services. Obviously the charge for services becomes an issue and who will do the actual work given that Public Works would not be able to perform these duties.

- If not DPW then who? A private contract yearly that let's us establish a relationship for snow shoveling services for scofflaws funded directly from revenues generated from fines?
- A program utilizing inmate labor i.e. "Operation Snow Shovel" sponsored by the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department which provides closely supervised inmates for shoveling sidewalks.

In this instance public expectation clearly surpasses the resources dedicated to this issue. DPW will work with any and all agencies and residents to come to a reasonable solution to this problem.



2.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

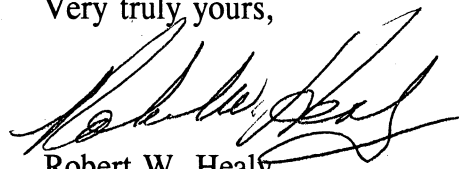
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 12, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 10, regarding the procedure for notifying/ticketing property owners who are not shoveling their sidewalks, received from Public Works Commissioner Ralph E. Dunphy.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #2

S-48

Relative to Awaiting Report
Item No. 110, regarding the
procedure for notifying/ticketing
property owners who are not
shoveling their sidewalks.

In City Council February 12, 1996

Order Adopted