



City of Cambridge

4.

Calendar Item # 21

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~November 22, 1993~~

December 13, 1993

COUNCILLOR MYERS
COUNCILLOR WOLF

WHEREAS: The following letter has been forwarded to the Traffic Commissioner and the City Council regarding car alarms and other noises produced by automobiles; and

WHEREAS: These noises can be a real detriment to the quality of life in the City; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the following letter be referred to the City Manager for discussion with the Traffic Department about appropriate steps that might be taken to address these concerns.

In City Council December 13, 1993.

Adopted by a yea and nay vote:-

Yeas 8; Nays 0; Absent 1.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



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CHARTER RIGHT WAS EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR WALSH



City of Cambridge

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RESOLVED: That the following letter be referred to the City Manager for discussion with the Traffic Department about appropriate steps that might be taken to address these concerns.

R.C. Binstock
157 Hamilton Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

George Teso, Director
Department of Traffic and Parking
57 Inman Street

Jonathan Myers
City Council
City Hall

October 22, 1993

Dear Mr. Teso, Councilor Myers,

Many of us are increasingly concerned about the ever-higher noise levels in our city neighborhoods. It seems clear that the old ethic of maintaining quiet and not disturbing one's neighbors is threatened. Our society as a whole is just beginning to address noise problems, which are only going to be more pressing as the nation's population increases.

I thought that on this issue, as on so many, Cambridge might place itself in the forefront and make a small contribution to the development of new solutions. A lot of the most disturbing and unnecessary noise is generated by automobiles, and it seems to me that Traffic and Parking is in the best position to speak to drivers about this. (Also, the 1993 notice about "reserving" parking spaces in snow suggested this approach to me.)

What I'd like to propose is that something like the following be included in the materials distributed with resident parking stickers:

Cambridge is a crowded city, and in many neighborhoods residents live together in very close quarters. Any effort you can make to reduce unnecessary noise generated by your car will be appreciated by your neighbors and will contribute to a pleasant and peaceful atmosphere throughout the city. Please consider the following suggestions:

- o If your car has an alarm, please increase the automatic delay so that the full alarm does not sound when you routinely enter and exit the car, or when you activate and deactivate the alarm.

- o If your alarm produces a "chirp" on activation and deactivation, please adjust the volume of this signal to the lowest possible setting. (These adjustments can be quickly and inexpensively made by the installer of your alarm, the dealer who sold the car, or other auto alarm professionals.)
- o When listening to your car stereo, please keep its volume at a reasonable level.
- o Please keep horn-honking to a minimum at all times.

Again, Cambridge is a crowded place, and the consideration and thoughtfulness you show to your neighbors will benefit us all.

I know that many residents will not be sympathetic to these requests -- I know that many probably don't even read the materials they receive with their stickers -- but I honestly believe that some disturb others with these kinds of noises only because it hasn't occurred to them not to, or even (in the case of the alarms) because they don't know there is an alternative. At a very low cost, this effort might start a trend toward greater attention to the noise problem, or at least counteract to a small extent its unfortunate acceleration.

Mr. Teso, Jonathan, do consider my suggestion, and let me know what you think. And please forward this proposal to other appropriate individuals in the city government (or let me know who they are so I can approach them myself). I can be reached at the address above, or at 621-8737 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or at home at 547-3221 the rest of the time.

Thanks very much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RC Binstock". The signature is stylized and cursive.

R.C. Binstock (Bob)

