



# City of Cambridge

O-3.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

April 3, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE  
COUNCILLOR DECKER  
MAYOR GALLUCCIO  
VICE MAYOR MAHER  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding exterior lighting as outlined on the attached correspondence from Mike Hansen.

In City Council April 3, 2000.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

0-3

Subj: re: Exterior Lighting in Cambridge  
 Date: Sun, Mar 5, 2000 11:08 AM EDT  
 From: mikehansen@earthlink.net  
 X-From: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 Sender: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 Reply-to: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 To: KathyBorn@aol.com (Kathleen Born), jbraude@ci.cambridge.ma.us  
 (Jim Braude), henridavis@aol.com (Henrietta Davis),  
 mdecker@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Marjorie Decker),  
 agalluccio@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Anthony Galluccio),  
 dmaher@ci.cambridge.ma.us (David Maher), KER340@aol.com (Kenneth  
 Reeves), msullivan@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Michael Sullivan),  
 TimToomey@aol.com (Timothy Toomey)

Below is the text of a letter I am sending to our City Manager. As many of you already know, I am very concerned with the misapplication of exterior lighting. This subject has recently been the focus of an article in Time magazine and a segment on WBUR's Here and Now.

I like to think that we live in a city that is doing as much as we can to make as livable as possible. When I see our efforts eclipsed by others around the nation, I need to ask, "Why not here?"

Thanks for reading over what I have submitted and thinking about the subject. If you have time, please check out the extensive information on the International Dark-Sky Association web site at: [http://www.darksky.org/ida/ida 2/index.html](http://www.darksky.org/ida/ida%20index.html).

Of course, I am here to provide whatever help and resources I may.

-----text of letter-----

Mr. Robert Healy  
 City of Cambridge  
 City Hall  
 795 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am pleased to see that the City is forming a committee to look for ways to reduce our energy consumption with the long-term goal of reducing our impact on global warming.

As one simple, low-cost way of doing this, may I recommend and request that the City investigate putting into practice a low impact exterior lighting policy?

While most of our Cambridge streets are well lit with full cut off street lamps, there are many areas where the city, businesses,

0-3

and residents have engaged in wasteful consumption through misplaced light and misguided lighting design. I would ask that ordinances be considered to protect us from such practices in the future and that the City look at ways to reverse past excesses.

Examples of the types of lighting I am referring to are the bright, glare producing wall packs common to many business and industrial buildings; the acorn lamps (which look good only during the day) that are common in some of our squares; the drop lens cobra head street lights that obliterate vision and the night sky along much of Mass. Ave. from Porter to Harvard squares; the uplighting of billboards; the rampant proliferation of unneeded, unshielded floodlights; the over lighting of building exteriors; and the escalation of commercial parking lot and filling station lighting levels. Even where there is a need for lighting, much could be done by putting lamps on timers so that they shut off when businesses are closed and aren't needed or by using motion detectors so that neighbors and police will look up to see a prowler rather than being oblivious to their presence.

Obviously, as you can see from the pages I have included, there are many other reasons to pursue better lighting than simply reducing our energy use. Safety, health, our environment, and our property rights are all improved with appropriate lighting practices. All of this can be done while saving money and energy. All can be done without infringing on property owners rights to necessary illumination.

Many other towns, cities, and states have and are adopting such regulations. It would be nice to think that our enlightened city can be as progressive and forward thinking as some of the places that have already put these practices into place. I hope we don't need to wait for state or federal regulations to force us to do it.

Thank you in advance for considering this request and for bringing it before the appropriate City bodies. Of course, if there is any way that I can assist in accomplishing any of the goals I have outlined, I am available.

--  
Mike Hansen  
2561 Massachusetts Avenue #1  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1020  
617-661-6520

----- Headers -----  
Return-Path: <mikehansen@earthlink.net>  
Received: from rly-yg04.mx.aol.com (rly-yg04.mail.aol.com

0-3

Subj: re: Exterior Lighting in Cambridge  
 Date: Sun, Mar 5, 2000 11:08 AM EDT  
 From: mikehansen@earthlink.net  
 X-From: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 Sender: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 Reply-to: mikehansen@earthlink.net (Mike Hansen)  
 To: KathyBorn@aol.com (Kathleen Born), jbraude@ci.cambridge.ma.us  
 (Jim Braude), henridavis@aol.com (Henrietta Davis),  
 mdecker@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Marjorie Decker),  
 agalluccio@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Anthony Galluccio),  
 dmaher@ci.cambridge.ma.us (David Maher), KER340@aol.com (Kenneth  
 Reeves), msullivan@ci.cambridge.ma.us (Michael Sullivan),  
 TimToomey@aol.com (Timothy Toomey)

Below is the text of a letter I am sending to our City Manager. As many of you already know, I am very concerned with the misapplication of exterior lighting. This subject has recently been the focus of an article in Time magazine and a segment on WBUR's Here and Now.

I like to think that we live in a city that is doing as much as we can to make as livable as possible. When I see our efforts eclipsed by others around the nation, I need to ask, "Why not here?"

Thanks for reading over what I have submitted and thinking about the subject. If you have time, please check out the extensive information on the International Dark-Sky Association web site at: [http://www.darksky.org/ida/ida 2/index.html](http://www.darksky.org/ida/ida%20index.html).

Of course, I am here to provide whatever help and resources I may.

-----text of letter-----

Mr. Robert Healy  
 City of Cambridge  
 City Hall  
 795 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy,

I am pleased to see that the City is forming a committee to look for ways to reduce our energy consumption with the long-term goal of reducing our impact on global warming.

As one simple, low-cost way of doing this, may I recommend and request that the City investigate putting into practice a low impact exterior lighting policy?

While most of our Cambridge streets are well lit with full cut off street lamps, there are many areas where the city, businesses,

and residents have engaged in wasteful consumption through misplaced light and misguided lighting design. I would ask that ordinances be considered to protect us from such practices in the future and that the City look at ways to reverse past excesses.

Examples of the types of lighting I am referring to are the bright, glare producing wall packs common to many business and industrial buildings; the acorn lamps (which look good only during the day) that are common in some of our squares; the drop lens cobra head street lights that obliterate vision and the night sky along much of Mass. Ave. from Porter to Harvard squares; the uplighting of billboards; the rampant proliferation of unneeded, unshielded floodlights; the over lighting of building exteriors; and the escalation of commercial parking lot and filling station lighting levels. Even where there is a need for lighting, much could be done by putting lamps on timers so that they shut off when businesses are closed and aren t needed or by using motion detectors so that neighbors and police will look up to see a prowler rather than being oblivious to their presence.

Obviously, as you can see from the pages I have included, there are many other reasons to pursue better lighting than simply reducing our energy use. Safety, health, our environment, and our property rights are all improved with appropriate lighting practices. All of this can be done while saving money and energy. All can be done without infringing on property owners rights to necessary illumination.

Many other towns, cities, and states have and are adopting such regulations. It would be nice to think that our enlightened city can be as progressive and forward thinking as some of the places that have already put these practices into place. I hope we don t need to wait for state or federal regulations to force us to do it.

Thank you in advance for considering this request and for bringing it before the appropriate City bodies. Of course, if there is any way that I can assist in accomplishing any of the goals I have outlined, I am available.

--  
Mike Hansen  
2561 Massachusetts Avenue #1  
Cambridge, MA 02140-1020  
617-661-6520

----- Headers -----  
Return-Path: <mikehansen@earthlink.net>  
Received: from rly-yg04.mx.aol.com (rly-yg04.mail.aol.com

Order - Daws

City mgr to  
rpt back to  
CC on exterior  
lighting

10  
2

Exterior lighting

See attached

2000 MAR 17 A 10: 24  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
SOUTH BRIDGE STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

# Message for

Time

Date

WHEN YOU WERE OUT

M

Of

Area Code

Telephone No.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoned         | <input type="checkbox"/> Called to see you  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wants you to phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Will call back     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will phone later   | <input type="checkbox"/> Returned your call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to see you   |   |

Message:

Maryaret -

H.D. would like  
order asking

City Mgr to report  
back to Council on  
afternoon lighting

See attached

2000 MAR 17 A 10:24  
STEPHEN J. HANCOCK  
CLERK  
SANTUCCI, MASSACHUSETTS

# Message for

---

Time

Date

WHEN YOU WERE OUT

M

Of

Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoned         | <input type="checkbox"/> Called to see you  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wants you to phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Will call back     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will phone later   | <input type="checkbox"/> Returned your call |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to see you   |   |

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

03 ✓

Councillor Davis

Ordered That the City Manager be & hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding exterior lighting as outlined in the attached correspondence from Mike Hansen



# City of Cambridge

O-3.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

April 3, 2000

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council regarding exterior lighting as outlined on the attached correspondence from Mike Hansen.

50 CM

**Order #3**

Report back to the City Council  
regarding exterior lighting.  
**Councillor Davis**

In City Council April 3, 2000

**ORDER ADOPTED**