



City of Cambridge

55.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 16, 1997

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation with the view in mind of addressing the issues concerning excessive noise and industrial traffic on Cardinal Medeiros Avenue outlined in the attached letter.

In City Council June 16, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

10 June 1997

Jane Kent
Traffic Office
Cambridge City Hall
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Jane:

Thank you for speaking with me last Tuesday about the problem of excessive noise and industrial traffic on Cardinal Meideros Street. As you suggested, I am outlining my observations and concerns.

I am greatly distressed at the high level of noise and truck traffic on Cardinal Meideros. It is commonplace for eighteen-wheelers to rumble down the street as early as 7am and as late as 11pm. I conducted an informal survey last Tuesday morning of the truck traffic outside my house, situated at the corner of Hardwick St. and Cardinal Meideros. Between 7am and 7:30am, approximately twenty heavy industrial vehicles (from eighteen-wheelers to ten-wheelers) and seven large vans drove past, equally split between those heading north and those heading south. The vast majority of trucks were business-related, including Budweiser, JetAway, Royal Laundry, SYSCO, MedTech, Ciccone & Sons, and, ironically, Triumverate Environmental.

Because it provides straight access to Cambridge Street and, subsequently, Interstate 93 without a single stop sign or street light, Cardinal Meideros is a popular shortcut for truckers. However, the street is approximately 85% residential, and NONE of these vehicles are stopping to conduct business on a street heavily populated by both young children and elderly residents. Children crossing Cardinal Meideros to reach the Harrington School in the morning are taking their life in their hands. Also, the noise level of these trucks is intolerable; I am often woken in the morning by the roar of a Royal Laundry truck. I'm sure the pollution they generate is not doing the local rose bushes much good, either.

I understand that these trucks have to travel somewhere, but there are many non-residential streets in the immediate vicinity, such as Binney Street, they could utilize. It is both dangerous and unfair for the residents of Cardinal Meideros and its vicinity to bear the brunt of such heavy industrial traffic all hours of the day and night. Cardinal Meideros is not a shortcut to I-93; nor should it be used in that capacity.

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There are several possible actions which would help address this problem. One possibility is a "no-truck exclusion". I understand that this lengthy process involves a study approved by the state before local traffic authorities could implement it. Another possibility might be to ban trucks from Cardinal Meideros during certain parts of the day.

I'm sure that you are very busy, but I would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Just think how you would feel if your house shook, blasts of stinky exhaust polluted your air and rumblings drowned out your radio approximately once every 90 seconds. All residents of Cambridge deserve a decent quality of life, from East Cambridge and Wellington-Harrington to Brattle Street and back.

Sincerely,

Margaret Weigel
(617) 492-7371

cc: Tim Toomey

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Sincerely,

Margaret Weigel
(617) 492-7371

cc: Tim Toomey

Councillor Toomey

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Consent Order #55

CM-405

Councillor Toomey re: Address
issues concerning excessive noise
and industrial traffic on Cardinal
Medeiros Avenue.

In City Council June 16, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED