

FAX: 929-3256

Copy for City Council - Please distribute
ALEXIA HAYES
156 MAGAZINE ST
CAMBRIDGE MA 02139

May 5, 1994

Letters to the Editor
City Weekly, Boston Globe

Re: Stop & Shop, Cambridge

The overwhelming majority of neighborhood people and others who rely on Stop & Shop are upset at the old store's closing, but we are really angry at the MDC and the few unduly powerful elitists who are preventing construction of a fine new superstore. The answer to Mr. Sage's gratuitous remark is that we are sympathetic to Stop & Shop.

I cannot help but suspect that Mr. Sage still hopes to acquire the property, if only for parking space, and perhaps after it has turned into an urban wasteland. Trucks and tour busses bringing guests to the motel have been using Memorial Drive every day, all day and into the night for as long as I can remember. Recently, I saw six in less than 15 minutes in the middle of the afternoon. And a Shell tanker has passed me in the parking lot, after dark, and exited onto the Drive. One tank driver told a neighbor of mine he had permission! Needless to say, the MDC does nothing about the truck traffic. And those tour busses park for the weekend in Stop & Shop's lot!

The flowers that bloom in the spring have nothing to do with this case. Among the many concessions and offers Stop & Shop made while working with a community task force about a year ago are: landscaping to both sides of the Drive; improvements to the MDC pool area and the Magazine Beach park; a new traffic light where badly needed; a visual barrier with sideways entrance to the liquor store; enclosure with noise-reduction baffling for the truck bay (to please the motel); some reduction in size (to suit the MDC); scheduling of trucks to avoid rush hours and special events on the river and late night hours (to help the neighborhood); as well as every possible consideration to near neighbors during construction. It should also be noted that their trucks will enter via the wider neighborhood streets they use now and will only exit to Memorial Drive, travel a block and a half past commercial property, and turn right onto River Street. There will be the same number per week as we have now, but more of them will be 18-wheelers, 7 or 8 a day, but not on Sunday.

Furthermore, it is a done deal. The task force, most of the many residents who testified at Council hearings, the Council itself, and the City Manager have all signed on last summer. Until after that the MDC indicated they would compromise. In fact, there has been a new roadblock at each stage of negotiation. This is the latest and last.

Meanwhile, the many folks here who do not own cars want to be bussed to a Stop & Shop, not to an inadequate or more expensive store.

dK Hayes

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AK Hayes

Consent Communication # 10

S-232
Comm. from Alexia Hayes, 156 Magazine
Street in favor of the proposed plan
as accepted by the City Council in
June of 1993 for Stop & Shop.

In City Council,

May 16, 1994

Plaud n file

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