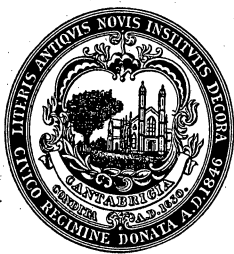


Russell B. Higley
City Solicitor

Donald A. Drisdell
Deputy City Solicitor

Nancy E. Glowa
First Assistant
City Solicitor



Arthur J. Goldberg
Supervising Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel
Birge Albright
Gail S. Gabriel
Vali Buland
Cheryl Anne Watson
Nancy B. Schlacter

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Office of the City Solicitor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

November 29, 2000

Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: *City Council Order #24, dated 9-18-00, Regarding the Parking Freeze*

Dear Mr. Healy:

In response to the City Council request regarding the current status of the Parking Freeze, I am providing the following report.

The federal parking freeze regulation was promulgated in the 1970's to restrict the number of off-street commercial parking spaces which could be developed in the City. Under the federal Clean Air Act, in order to replace that federal regulation, it is necessary for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to amend the State Implementation Plan (SIP) which contains a comprehensive compilation of air quality regulations for Massachusetts. The process for amending the SIP is a multi-year process.

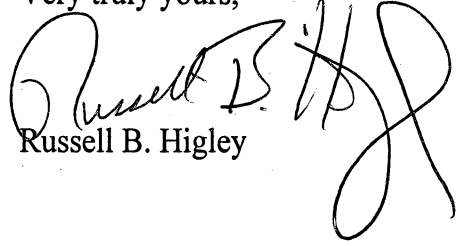
The SIP Amendment process began in the early 1990's when Cambridge developed an innovative set of vehicle trip reduction programs and petitioned both the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and EPA to replace the federal parking freeze regulation with the Cambridge programs. The City then worked with DEP to develop a state regulation which could be submitted to EPA as the basis for the SIP Amendment. The state regulation was finalized in 1997 and is codified at 310 CMR 60.04. Promptly upon finalizing the regulation, DEP officially petitioned EPA to replace the federal parking freeze regulation with the Cambridge vehicle trip reduction programs as codified in the 1997 state regulation.

While EPA has been supportive of the Cambridge vehicle trip reduction programs, it has also been juggling a number of high priority matters and was not able to respond to the state petition quickly. On September 18, 2000, EPA finally published a proposed rule approving the SIP Amendment. The City and other interested parties have until December 18, 2000 to submit comments to EPA on the proposed rule. EPA will then review the comments and publish a final rule. It is our expectation that EPA will issue the final SIP

Amendment during calendar year 2001. We will press for a prompt resolution of the matter.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Russell B. Higley



8.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

December 4, 2000

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 00-81, regarding a report on the potential ending of the Parking Freeze, received from City Solicitor Russell Higley.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment



2000 Things 2 Do in 2000

Communication from Robert W. Healy,
City Manager relative to Awaiting
Report Item Number 00-81 regarding
a report on the potential ending
of the Parking Freeze.

In City Council December 4, 2000

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