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Paul D. Guertin
James G. Jacobs

Paul E. Bowker
Edgar A. Lagace
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Mark Linenthal
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Linenthal Eisenberg Anderson, Inc. Engineers
16 Cambridge Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 telephone 617-426-6300

May 3, 1978

Mr. Paul Healy, City Clerk
795 Mass Ave.
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

RE: Retaining wall at Star Market Company adjacent
to Homer Avenue

Dear Mr. Healy:

This is to explain the necessity of removing the existing sidewalk in order to install the new retaining wall at Homer Avenue.

The original retaining wall at this site is constructed of large loose stone. The wall is approximately 3 feet wide at the base and extends 2-4 feet below the existing sidewalk. At sometime in the past a concrete face and cap were placed over the stone wall. This cap was of little structural value, although it did prevent stones from falling out of the wall.

In recent years the concrete facing has been deteriorating rapidly. The facing now has reached a point where it is very unsightly and is potentially hazardous. In addition, measurements taken at the site indicate that the wall has been moving and tilting outward. If this condition is left unrepaired for a long period of time there is a possibility of the wall collapsing. There are two obvious ways to correct the wall problem.

1. The entire existing stone wall and concrete facing could be removed and a new wall built in its place. This would necessitate the excavation and removal of a large quantity of earth and stone. Most of the sidewalk adjacent to the wall would have to be removed in order to dig out the part of the stone wall that extends below the sidewalk. Whatever part of the sidewalk was not removed would probably be damaged during the excavation and have to be replaced. During the excavation and construction period there would be substantial truck traffic on Homer Avenue and, in addition, Star Market would temporarily lose the use of a significant number of parking spaces causing further traffic problems. The finished wall and wall footing would be entirely on Star Market's property and would not encroach on the City of Cambridge Streets.

Linenthal Eisenberg Anderson Inc.

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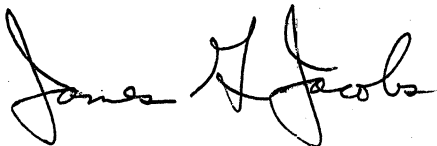
2. The entire existing wall could be left in place and a new wall constructed in front of it. This solution is the one indicated on the plans. The structural design of a retaining wall necessitates a large base footing. It is this footing that we hope to be able to place under the City of Cambridge sidewalk. The new wall in some areas would encroach over the Homer Avenue Street line. If the wall can be placed this way the length of the construction time will be reduced and the amount of excavation will be minimal and there will be less inconvenience caused to the people on Homer Avenue as well as Star Market Company.

Please note that the sidewalk would be replaced under either construction scheme.

Enclosed are two copies of the plans for the new wall described in 2 above.

Very truly yours,

LINENTHAL EISENBERG ANDERSON INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Jacobs".

James Jacobs

cc: George Gamache, Star Market Company

JJ/kj

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Comm. from Linenthal Eisenberg Anderson, Inc.
Engineers re: retaining wall at Star Market
Company adjacent to Homer Ave.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

In City Council,

May 8, 1978

5/8/78
Referred to
Committee # 4
See Order Adopted
this date