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212 Allston Street, #2
Cambridge, MA 02139

November 28, 2000

Ron Watson, Police Chief
Cambridge Police Department
5 Western Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Chief Watson,

The problem of car drivers running red lights continues to be a nightmare for this city and today was just a fine example why drivers do so with so little care. While in Central Square at about 1:45 pm, at the corner of Mass. & Prospect, I saw four cars (not just one, two or even three, but four!) run through a red light. The fourth car slowed, all but stopping, in the proceeding traffic of River Street.

In front of me was a cruiser coming the other way on Mass. Ave. It did nothing but could have. Any observant officer would see just when the light was red, and then see that cars were still coming. They were laughing and talking away. To my left, standing in front of the Tax Man, was a detail officer, number 269 I believe. He did nothing, not even to the guy who paused in the middle of the street, right in front of him.

It's one thing to accidentally run a light. That's bad, but it happens from time to time. But you know and I know when people do it on purpose. And, this was so BLATANT!

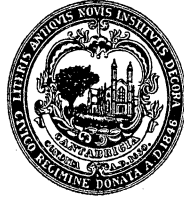
Well, I went over and asked him about the cars running the lights right in front of him. His reply? To the word, he said, "What do you want me to do about it?" He then arrogantly asked me if I thought he should have run after the cars and stopped them. I told him it was not my area of expertise, and so I couldn't say what to do. But, I did tell him that police are letting people run red lights all the time here. He was getting argumentative about it and so I didn't go too far with my questions.

I wrote to you before about this, and I'll write again. We need police vigilance in this city to stop this MOST dangerous habit. This isn't just about the "law." This is about a behavioral habit that's a potential killer *every single time* it happens. But, when a cop asks a pedestrian what the pedestrian wants the cop to do about someone breaking the law, in the middle of a congested urban center (!), there really is no hope of protection by "Officers of the Law."

Feeling let down by our police force as usual,

Melissa Morse

Cc: Henrietta Davis, Councillor
Cambridge Chronicle, City Editor



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Henrietta Davis
City Councillor

2000 DEC 14 P 3:38
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

To: Ms. D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
From: Councillor Henrietta Davis
Date: December 14, 2000

Please include the attached letter from Melissa Morse as part of this record for the upcoming meeting on Monday, December 18th under the heading of Communications and Reports from City Officers.

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**Communications & Reports From
City Officers #2**

A communication was received from
Councillor Henrietta Davis regarding a
communication from Melissa Morse
transmitting concern about cars
running red lights in Central Square.

In City Council December 18, 2000

Referred to Transportation
Traffic and Parking
Committee

12-20-00
Copy sent me