



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 • TEL. 876-0125

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

THOMAS V. SCOTT
Chief of Department

July 12, 1990

Robert W. Healy, City Manager
City Manager's Office
City Hall

Dear Mr. Healy:

The following is forwarded to you in regards to Council Order #26 of June 25, 1990, pertaining to the flushing of fire hydrants.

As you are aware, the Fire Department conducts a program each year in which we test all hydrants. The testing is conducted so as each Engine Company tests the hydrants in their own respective districts. This testing procedure is not only performed all day on Saturdays, but it is carried out through each weekday evening and also all day on Sundays as well.

I do sympathize with all of the people throughout the city whereby the flushing and testing does create a problem by producing dirty water for a short period of time. Each company, prior to commencing of the testing, go around to the particular area that they will test and announce to the residents, over a loud speaker system, that they should draw some clean water for washing, etc. as the Fire Department will be testing hydrants in the area and this will result in some dirty water for a short period of time.

This annual inspection procedure is a necessity as it allows the Fire Department to check each hydrant to determine if we have any broken stems, caps, if the pressure is adequate, if the volume is sufficient, or if the drain valve is working properly so as we will not encounter a frozen hydrant in the event of a fire during the winter months.

The one change that we could suggest for the future, since we have just completed our testing for this year, would be in addition to our vocal announcement is to advertise over cable TV to alert the residents as to which areas we would be testing each week. This would not only alert the household residents but also the owners of laundries who seem to have difficulty during times of testing.

Thomas V. Scott, Chief

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

July 30, 1990

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #48 of June 25, 1990 regarding the draining and flushing of fire hydrants. attached is a report from Fire Chief Thomas Scott.

The fire hydrant testing is conducted by each Engine Company weekday evenings and weekends. There are several reasons why the hydrants cannot be flushed and drained during the day on weekdays, including the unavailability of fire personnel, most of whom are involved in training. Additionally, testing during the day on weekdays would interrupt business processing and would create traffic problems, since streets have to be blocked off during this procedure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda # 7

725
Awaiting Report Item # 48 , regarding
the drainage and flushing of fire
hydrants.

In City Council,

July 30, 1990

*Referred back
to the City Manager
for better response.*