



City of Cambridge

5.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 21, 1994

VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR MYERS
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic and Parking and the Police Commissioner to determine what steps can be taken to address the concerns of the residents of Fresh Pond Place with regard to the situations outlined in the attached letter. Please report back to the City Council.

In City Council November 21, 1994
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

5.

53 Fresh Pond Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
November 12, 1994

Councilor Sheila T. Russell
5 Hawthorne Park
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Councilor Russell,

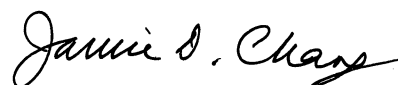
The Fresh Pond Place Association is in the process of requesting a recommendation from the City of Cambridge Traffic & Parking Department regarding the traffic flow at Fresh Pond Place. There have been a number of concerns regarding the traffic on Huron Ave. by many residents at Fresh Pond Place. Of particular concern is the speed of cars traveling on Huron Ave and the visibility for cars exiting and entering in the Fresh Pond Place driveways. Enforcement of the traffic speed on Huron Ave and the "No Parking" and "Permit Parking Only" areas in front of the VFW and the Fresh Pond Place would help in preventing cars from blocking areas that are needed in order to safely exit our driveways. I have written a letter to Ms. M. Jane Kent (enclosed) outlining some actions that could perhaps be taken by the City to increase the safety of the Huron Ave. traffic.

In addition, as a mother of three young children, I am greatly appreciative of the beautifully renovated park on Huron Ave. It is a great improvement over the previous playground equipment, and we thank the City of Cambridge very much for providing new playground equipment in our neighborhood. Decreasing traffic speeds on Huron Ave would also be beneficial for the children who use this playground.

Any assistance that the City Council could provide on increasing safety on Huron Ave. would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,



Janice D. Chang

cc: H.H. Gilbert Management Corp. for Fresh Pond Place

Enclosures

53 Fresh Pond Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
November 12, 1994

Ms. M. Jane Kent
Traffic Engineer
City of Cambridge Traffic & Parking
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Kent:

Thank you for the information sent to me on October 19th regarding information on guidelines and design considerations for speed bumps and speed humps along with other traffic control signs and accessories.

I was recently told by our Insurance Agent and Management Company that the Fresh Pond Place Association Board of Governors is once again revisiting the issue of the most efficient traffic flow with the City of Cambridge Traffic & Parking Division.

As you are aware, after the Board received the August 25, 1993 recommendation from you and Mr. Lauren Preston regarding the safest travel direction, the Board changed the traffic direction nearly five months later on January 4, 1994. Over the summer, the Board surveyed residents in an open-ended questionnaire regarding the safety of the driveways and voted to change the driveway direction once again beginning November 21, 1994.

Although there are some problems with the current exit and entrance the way it currently stands (no way is perfect, though, since there are also definitely problems the other way), a number of owners wrote to the Association's insurance company asking for a review of the potential liability issues with the driveway in a clock-wise flow especially if safety issues were not solved. We were initially told by the insurance agent that he would forward our letter directly to the insurance carrier, but after receiving our letter he did not to send it based on a request from H.H. Gilbert Management Corp and with the understanding that the City of Cambridge would be consulted once more (see enclosed letters).

In your re-evaluation of the traffic direction flow, I have enclosed a map of the complex showing areas of particular concern within the complex that need to be addressed should the driveway direction be in a clockwise flow. Cars entering at areas labeled [a] encounter a common garage for Units #1-7 directly around the corner. There is a slope in the driveway at [b] that increases traffic speed in a confined area. There are two blind spots that are very dangerous for cars and pedestrians, labeled [c] and [d] on the map. Cars exiting and entering these areas are not able to see each other and there have been a number of near collisions in these areas. The intersection [e] is also dangerous since a study by our previous Management Company in 1992 showed that

high speeds at this turn were reflected in tire tracks and crushed rocks at the flower bed directly affecting the Unit #24 garage. The intersection [f] reflects the meeting of cars building up speed to go up the hill from [e]. Lastly, pedestrians on the sidewalk walking to and from the 700 Huron Ave Towers and VFW Hall cannot be seen until cars are over the crest of the hill almost on the sidewalk.

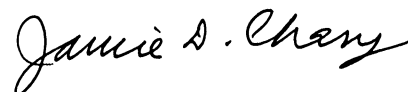
In order to address some of the concerns expressed by residents regarding the Huron Ave traffic, it would appear that there could also be some actions taken by the city that may be effective in alleviating these concerns. These could include the following:

- Requesting that the Cambridge Police enforce the speed limit of cars traveling on Huron Ave in both east and west directions.
- Installing the island on Cushing Street that would potentially reduce the traffic speed of cars on Huron Ave. heading toward Cushing St. My understanding from speaking with you is that this is already being planned by the City.
- Enforcing the "No Parking" and the "Permit Parking Only" areas in front of the VFW and Fresh Pond Place driveway to help in the visibility of cars exiting Fresh Pond Place.
- Installing a traffic light at the crosswalk in front of the Golf Course. This would reduce traffic speeds on Huron Ave, in addition to being safer for residents at 700 Huron Ave Towers, and Fresh Pond Place, along with visitors to the VFW, golf course, and Fresh Pond reservoir. The stoplight would also be safer for pedestrians crossing Huron Ave from the #74 bus stop.

In consideration of some these actions that would be beneficial for all Huron Ave traffic and increase safety regardless of the driveway direction flow of Fresh Pond Place, I have also written to Police Commissioner Perry Anderson and to the Cambridge City Council for their help.

Thank you again for all your help. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Janice D. Chang

cc: Mr. Lauren Preston
Police Commissioner Perry Anderson
Cambridge City Councilors
H.H. Gilbert Management for Fresh Pond Place Association

53 Fresh Pond Place
Cambridge, MA 02138
November 12, 1994

Councilor Timothy J. Toomey Jr.
88 Sixth Street
Cambridge, MA 02141

Dear Councilor Toomey,

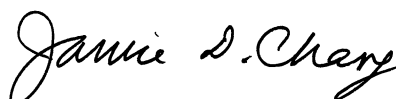
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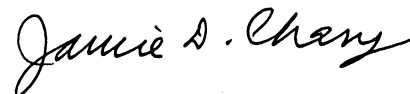
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**VICE MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY**

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Born Dubay Sullivan
Trantafillo Myers

Consent Order #5

CM-408

Coun cillor Toomey re: Concerns of the residents
of Fresh Pond Place.

In City Council November 21, 1994.

Order adopted.