



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Hall Annex - Inman & Broadway - Cambridge, Mass. 02139

498-9034

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
From: Michael Rosenberg, Assistant City Manager for Community Development
Re: Council Order #18, 10/15/90 Re: Graffiti in the Agassiz Neighborhood Area
Awaiting Report #79
Date: November 16, 1990

In response to City Council Order #18 of October 15 concerning graffiti in the Agassiz Neighborhood Area, I report the following.

The subject of graffiti problems in the Agassiz Neighborhood was discussed at the meeting of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council on November 13, 1990. Representatives from the Police Department and District Attorney's office were present. Representatives from the Business Association of North Cambridge and from particular buildings that have been violated were invited to attend, and all neighbors in the area were invited to come to give their own ideas for graffiti prevention as well as to hear advice on how to control it. Neighborhood Planner Cara Seiderman represented the Community Development Department at the meeting.

Lieutenant George Donovan from the Cambridge Police Department advised people to call the Police Department to report incidents of graffiti as soon as they are discovered. He said that a police officer would then come to the scene and make a report, including taking photographs of the graffiti. Otherwise, he said that the only other thing residents can do is be as aware as possible of who is around the neighborhood; he suggested that the neighborhood might be interested in forming a neighborhood crime watch to deal with these and other crimes.

Residents from the Agassiz area feel that there has been an increase in vandalism in general in the neighborhood, particularly against parked automobiles. One proposal that came from the group for how they felt vandalism could be kept down was greater police presence; specifically, they recommended that the Police Department consider putting "beat" police officers in each neighborhood, who would walk or drive the neighborhoods regularly. The officer would then get to know the neighborhood, and potential vandals would be less likely to commit crimes.

Another suggestion for dealing with graffiti is the importance of removing it as soon as it appears; the presence of existing graffiti tends to encourage more. Therefore, property owners should remove the graffiti as soon as it has been reported.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

FAX. 868-8159

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

November 26, 1990

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 66, regarding Graffiti in the Agassiz Neighborhood area, attached is a report from Michael Rosenberg, Assistant City Manager for Community Development. In addition to the efforts taken by Community Development, please be advised that Chief of Police Anthony Paolillo has directed Day Patrol and Night Patrol Operations to pay particular attention to the resurgence of graffiti in the Agassiz Neighborhood area.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
enclosure

Agenda # 2

S-1171

Awaiting Report Item No. 66, regarding
graffiti in the Agassiz Neighborhood
area.

In City Council,

November 26, 1990

Placed in file