



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To To The Honorable
The Cambridge City Council

Date October 27, 1975

From John R. Sennoit, Jr. Chairman
License Commission

Reference City Ordinance #848

Subject
Safety Partitions - Taxi-cabs.

In reference to your request that a conference be held with the Cambridge Taxicab owners to hear their comments concerning the City Ordinance #848 dealing with the installation of safety partitions in Hackney Carriages, please be advised that a hearing was held on Monday, October 27, 1975.

Herewith are the comments in relation thereto:

1. As to Item A of the Specifications dealing with the installation of of the partitons: It was the consensus of the owners that a 1/2" thick plexiglass was sufficient to make it knife, bullet, etc. resistant. (Boston requires such). In addition, the cost of 5/8" was 25% more expensive than 1/2" glass. It was felt that the requirement that the partition extend to the floor of the cab be made optional. If anything, the seat of the Driver only need be protected with a safety shield. One owner of a Valiant commented that if the adjustable drivers seat was moved all the way back, the partition would block the rear door of the cab.

Further, Independent Owners, who are sole drivers of the vehicle felt that the requirement should be optional and they would assume the risk. It was stated that on their off duty hours, the vehicle is used for family use.

Finally, some comment was made that partitions could be harmful to passengers in the case of a sudden stop or accident - the passengers could be thrown against the partitions and suffer injury.

Discussion also centered on the point that the average age of taxicabs is about two years and it could be costly to convert the partitions to new cabs, especially if larger partitions were needed in a new bigger car - average expense \$265.00

Cambridge City Council

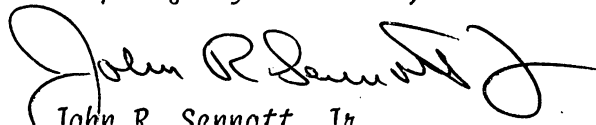
John R. Sennott, Chairman.

2.

2. As to Item D. pertaining to change drawer and no window in the partition. It was felt this matter of having a window should be optional. Some owners stated that without a window they could become locked in the cab since they could not reach into the rear of a "locked" cab to unlock the door.

In view of the fact that some of the owners were not in agreement among themselves on all points, no recommendation is made hereto.

Respectfully submitted,


John R. Sennott, Jr.
Chairman.

JRS:pam

cc: Mike Moser.

2.5-418
Comm. from Chairman of the License Commission
re: to Ordinance No. 848.

In City Council,
November 3, 1975

11/3/75

Referred to Finance
Committee before the
City Council -