

June 4, 1979

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

The part of Blanchard Road between Concord Avenue and Pleasant Street is under siege, and no one is coming to our aid.

Blanchard Road has always had more than its share of traffic, but it has been in the last few months that this irritating situation has become potentially life-threatening. Since the time that the Route 2 bridge near the Fresh Pond Shopping Center has been closed to heavy trucks because of the bridge's supposed being unsafe for such large vehicles, a great percentage of the trucks that used to use this bridge for access to and from Route 2 have been using Blanchard Road.

Blanchard Road has barely enough width to allow two cars to pass, and, yet, we are subjected to a heavy daily stream of diesels pulling 50-foot ~~hbx~~ trailers, 18-wheelers, and other types of huge commercial trucks.

Motivated by a sense of curiosity, I set out a couple of days ago to monitor the volume of truck traffic that uses Blanchard Road. In 15 minutes of watching, I discovered that 52 trucks had passed by my home. I would hope that you, as protectors of the public trust, would agree that no such heavily-congested Cambridge neighborhood should have to endure such a huge amount of truck traffic.

In addition to the extreme levels of noise that these trucks cause which makes such normal activities as watching television or conducting a conversation all the more difficult, the cumulative effect of the thousands of tons of trucking which rolls through our neighborhood in the course of a day has taken its toll on the homes here. In the past few months, I have witnessed some significant deterioration of my parents' home, due largely to the fact that the foundation of their home is shaken a few hundred times a day by these large trucks.

While it is true that Blanchard Road is posted as being off-limits to trucks between the hours of 10PM and 7AM, truck drivers disregard this. They show a callous disregard for the law (and for the need of people in this area to get any sleep) by using Blanchard Road at all hours of the day.

In addition, most truckers treat Blanchard Road as if it were some superhighway-- and not a congested residential neighborhood. I would estimate that their average speed is 45 to 50 miles-per-hour. In these spring days when children are riding their bicycles and playing ball, there exists the frightening possibility that a child will inadvertently run into the street and meet his/her death beneath the wheels of a speeding truck. Furthermore, the area has a large elderly population which must sometimes cross Blanchard Road in order to catch a bus or visit the store. The truckers, by and large, show no respect or compassion for these seniors.

It may be argued that Blanchard Road, because of the indirect access it provides

to Route 2, is a major thoroughfare and that the people who live here must live with these truck-related problems. As a reasonably intelligent person, I can accept this argument. What I cannot accept is the fact that such other major Cambridge thoroughfares as Rindge Avenue, Walden Street, Huron Avenue, Storrow Drive, Fresh Pond Parkway, Memorial Drive, and Coolidge Avenue have all received total truck bans. None of these roads is as narrow as Blanchard Road and, it can be safely said, that each is a major artery that provides access to other major arteries. All that I would like to see is for Blanchard Road to receive the same protection from the tyranny of trucks that these other neighborhoods enjoy.

In these days of Proposition 13 and the proposed Tax Cap, you, as elected officials, are being forced to reexamine the purpose and limits of government. One thing is clear, though, and that is that the primary purpose of government has always been to protect innocent people from those who would victimize them and trample over their rights. A lot of residents in the Blanchard Road area would like to see you exercise that function on our behalf.

Respectfully,

TIM CALLAHAN 47 Blanchard Road

WE, THE FOLLOWING SIGNERS ARE CONCERNED  
 ABOUT THE TRUCK PROBLEMS ON BLANCHARD RD.  
 - PLEASE SIGN -

NAME

ADDRESS

Margaret + Catherine Terreck	55 Blanchard Rd.
Francis Vosta	59 Blanchard St.
Mary W. Black	73 Blanchard Rd.
Gertrude A. Wagon	73 Blanchard Rd.
Walter J. Fabianski	75 Blanchard Rd.
Helen M. Fabianski	75 Blanchard Rd.
Clare Fabianski	75 Blanchard Rd.
Mr + Mrs James Schipani	9 Normandy Ave
Mr. James J. Schipani	9 Normandy Ave
Weldon W. Maidment	15 Normandy Ave.
Mary E. Maidment	15 Normandy Ave.
Mr James Schipani	247 Blanchard Rd. Belmont
Margaret S. Downey	7 Normandy Ave. Camb.
Lapow Bonny	15 Normandy Ave. Camb.
Thomas F. Cahill	29 - Normandy Ave
Joan M. Cahill	29 - Normandy Ave
N. Joan Darrak	33 Normandy Avenue
George J. Richards	23 Normandy Ave.
Mary D. Riley	43 Normandy Ave Camb.
Robert J. Darrak	33 Normandy Ave
Robert M. Kenny	55 S. Normandy Ave.
Jane Dudley	103 Normandy Ave

Pc 2 - TRUCK ISSUES - BLANCHARD RD.

<u>NAME</u>		<u>ADDRESS</u>	
Joe & Bahano	86	NORMANDY AVE	
F. Carvelli	92	Normandy Ave.	
Kathy Skirway	104	Normandy Ave.	
Maura Holway	104	Normandy Ave.	
Barbara M. Ellis	26	Normandy Terrace	P
Raulo Ulin	"	"	"
Julio A Cahill	24	Normandy Terrace	
Rose C. Hodgdon	25	Normandy Terrace	
Elizabeth H. Palmer	17	Normandy Terrace	
Luka Sendar	7	Normandy Terrace, Cambridge	
Richard M. Cahill	27	NORMANDY TERRACE	CAMB
Carole K. Cahill	27	NORMANDY TERRACE	CAMB
Del C. Drouil	93	NORMANDY AVE	CAMB.
Ann Skupczynski	89	Normandy Ave C	CAMB.
Jenni Cruzinza	99	Normandy Ave	Cambridge
Susan Shea	91	Normandy Ave.	Camb.
Jail Aencabaugh	91	Normandy Ave	Camb.
Cecilia LaFlamme	85	Normandy Ave.	Camb.
Edward J. O'Callaghan	75	Normandy Ave	Camb.
Deborah Sullivan	45	So Normandy Ave	
Kathy Rafferty	74	Gravelly St.	Camb.
John Brady	38	S. Normandy	
Elizabeth Brady	38	S. Normandy	
Mary Fay	34	So Normandy Ave	C

Joseph F. Flaherty	3250 Normandy Ave	
Margaret L. Flaherty	30 So. Normandy Ave.	
<del>Mr. James J. Keenan</del>	1550 Normandy Ave.	
Josephine G. Feeney	12 So Normandy Ave	
Helen Garvey	12 So Normandy Ave	
Fredrick Lindstrom	17 S Normandy Ave	
Merico Pignazio	44 Sunset Road Camb.	
Donna Aylmer	39 Sunset Rd, Cambridge	02138
Jennie Mangano	35 Sunset Rd, Cambridge	02138
Joseph Deluise	30 Sunset Rd Camb.	02138
Richard C. Brown, Jr.	28 Sunset Rd Camb,	02138
<del>Mr. Faith Keating</del>	29 Sunset R. Camb.	02138
Mrs. Richard Johnson	28 Sunset Road	02138
Bohdan Zayckij	21 Sunset Rd.	02138
Thomas E. Bernard	21 Sunset Rd	02138
Lucy M. Anten	14 Sunset St Malden	02148
Edward S. Janni	15 Sunset Rd Camb	02138
Frances Salvati	10 Sunset Rd Camb	02138
Francine Giannico	8 Sunset Rd. Camb.	02138
Emilio Giannico	8 Sunset Rd. Camb	02138
Georgina T. Salvati	10 Sunset Rd Camb	02138
Cathy Donaghy	25 Griswold St. Camb.	
Miss M. McLaughlin	17 Griswold St Camb	02138
M. Ignazio	4 Griswold St Camb.	02138
Fee Ignazio	4 Griswold St Camb	02138

Jack Ignazio  
Susan Ignazio  
Mark Hayes  
Ann. Marie Trigon  
Olga K. O'Day  
Cathy Foster  
Sheila Babajtis  
Helen N. Navoy  
Joseph Navoy  
Fernando E. Traverso  
Thomas J. Rafferty  
Eileen Rafferty  
Roy Phredon  
Thomas Donoghue  
Mildred McCarthy  
Mary Donoghue  
Claire Griffin  
Michael Griffin  
David Griffin  
Edward J. Griffin  
Stella Peterson  
Karen Cune  
Joseph A. Cune  
Mr. Mrs. Allen J. Hayes

4 Griswold St. Camb. Ma.  
4 Griswold St. Camb. Ma.  
46 Loomis St. Camb. Ma.  
3 Griswold St. Camb.  
16 Griswold St. Camb., Mass.  
24 Griswold St. Camb. MASS.  
20 Griswold St. Camb. MASS.  
44 Griswold St. Camb. Mass.  
44 Griswold St. Camb.  
65 Griswold St. Camb.  
74 Griswold St. Camb.  
84 GRISWOLD ST. CAMB.  
85 Griswold St. Camb.  
88 Griswold St. Camb.  
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92 Griswold St. Camb.  
92 Griswold St. Camb.  
92 Griswold St. Camb.  
92 Griswold St. Camb.  
98 Griswold St. Camb.  
21 Loomis St. Camb.  
32 Loomis St. Camb.  
46 Loomis St. Camb.

Mr. & Mrs. K. B. Lorenzen - 41 Blanchard Rd.  
Diane Lorenzen 41 Blanchard Rd.  
Kenneth Lorenzen (1)  
Dicksom Gorn 33 Blanchard Rd.  
Jerry Brennan 25 Blanchard Rd  
Annie Brennan 25 Blanchard Rd  
Lynda Callahan 45 Blanchard Rd  
Richard C Callahan 45 Blanchard Rd.  
Dennis H Callahan 47 Blanchard Rd.  
Mary Callahan 47 Blanchard Rd  
Margaret Callahan 47 Blanchard Rd.  
Abraham A. Green 33 Ferno St

# City of Cambridge

S-315  
Comm. from Tim Callahan, et al, regarding truck  
traffic on Blanchard Rd.

InCity Council,  
June 4, 1979