

Communications/ Peter Valentine/ 37 Brookline/Request the Council
create an Order to intervene for the protection of musicians in
the subway/11/21/03

Dear Council,

I believe the City Government of Cambridge should intervene and stand up for the musicians who need the subway as a location during the winter to earn their living. We must not allow creative expression to wither away. Music is an extremely important artform. Art civilizes us. It demands talent and discipline and that gently spreads into and influences us to be talented and disciplined in the way we work and live our lives.

But artists must also learn to be disciplined in how they interface with societal fundamental structures.

There definitely have been times when in the subway the music was blatantly too loud. Artists are human and can have times when their mood or emotions strike forth in the public inconsiderately. We must understand this and gently guide them to be more respectful.

I suggest as a first step for your thought that all musicians who wish to perform in the subway must obtain a license at the police station which they MUST carry with them. The license would say that they agree without the least bit of argument to turn down their amplifier to the satisfaction of attending subway official or to respect any request by subway passengers to reduce volume a bit.

If a musician is asked to show their license while on the cite and they do not have one. THEY MUST CEASE UNTIL THEY DO.

If for someone reason the atmosphere in the subway is chaotic, the license must also indicate that the musician must be aware of this and may be told to CEASE until things calm down. The musician should be informed on the license that in this case they are not to get into any discussion or argument as to whether it's right or wrong for them to cease. In this case the disturbance would have nothing to do with the musician.

I think this covers the full range of possibilities.

In a world of brutal ruthlessness ,how will we ever make things better, unless those things that make things better
are stood up for

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Communication #1

A communication was received from Peter Valentine, regarding musicians in the subway.

In City Council December 8, 2003

PLACED ON FILE.