



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert Healy, City Manager

Date June 7, 1989

From Lauren M. Preston, Deputy Traffic Director

Reference

Subject Council Order #13 of May 1, 1989 Handicapped Parking Spaces at Cambridge
and Mt. Auburn Hospitals.

We have met with the Handicapped Commission and surveyed the conditions at the Mt. Auburn Hospital. Due to the slope of the sidewalk up to the main entrance of the hospital and other safety concerns we do not recommend establishing Handicapped Parking spaces on Mt. Auburn Street in front of the Mt. Auburn Hospital. There are Handicapped spaces located within the parking garage which provide easy access to the hospital. Attached is a copy of the letter sent to the hospital by the Handicapped Commission recommending a reduction in the cost of using the Handicapped spaces in the garage along with the need to allocate a Handicapped space at the Emergency Room entrance.

LMP;r

Enc.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMISSION ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS
McCusker Center
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

498-9000, Ext. 9509 (Voice)
492-0235 (TDD)

June 7, 1989

Frank Lynch, President
Mount Auburn Hospital
330 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238

Dear Mr. Lynch,

The Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons has been informed of several concerns regarding handicap access at Mount Auburn Hospital. One primary problem is handicap parking at the hospital. As you know, there is no handicap parking in the lot adjacent to the Emergency Room, and the only handicap parking available to persons with disabilities is located in the private lot adjacent to the main entrance to the hospital.

I have conducted a site review in conjunction with City Councilor Frank Duehay and Traffic Engineer Lauren Preston, in order to determine the feasibility of locating handicap parking near the hospital on Mount Auburn Street. I have concluded that handicap parking is not feasible on Mount Auburn Street for the following reasons:

- The State Architectural Access Board requires that ramps provided for handicap access be graded at a slope not to exceed 1:12 (12 inches of run for every inch of rise), that they be a minimum of 48 inches wide, and that handrails be provided on both sides of the ramp at set heights.
- The ramp leading from Mount Auburn Street to the hospital's main entrance fails to comply with Architectural Access Requirements for ramps with regard to slope, width and handrails.
- The ramp leading from the street to the Emergency Room also violates the above access requirements for ramps.
- Neither ramp could be brought into compliance without considerable cost and disruption for the hospital.
- Locating handicap parking on Mount Auburn Street would violate Architectural Access Board's site access requirements and is therefore not a feasible solution to the problem of handicap parking at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Discussion of alternatives to on-street handicap parking resulted in the following Two-Point Proposal:

1. That handicap parking be designated in the lot adjacent to the Emergency Room in the space closest to the Emergency entrance in order to provide handicap access to that critical component of the hospital's service delivery system; and
2. That the fee for parking in the private lot for persons whose vehicles display handicap parking plates or placards be set at the flat rate of \$1.00 or waived entirely.

With regard to Proposal #2, it should be noted that the majority of persons with disabilities live at or below poverty level, and the fee schedule at the private lot constitutes an unreasonable hardship. However, due to problems of site noncompliance leading from Mount Auburn Street to the hospital's main entrance, on-street handicap parking, for which there is no charge, cannot be designated.

Therefore, as a service to the handicapped community, and in order to avoid costly and disruptive excavation and construction at both the main and Emergency hospital entrances, the Commission on Handicapped Persons recommends that Mount Auburn Hospital adopt our Two-Point Proposal to meet the parking needs of Mount Auburn Hospital's disabled patients and visitors.

It is the Commission's hope that resolving the handicap parking problems at Mount Auburn Hospital in the near future will pave the way for the resolution of other handicap-related issues and concerns.

Sincerely,



Gail Enman, Executive Director
Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons

cc: Councilor Frank Duehay
Traffic Engineer Lauren Preston

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

June 15, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to City Council Order No. 13 of May 1, 1989 regarding the installation of handicapped parking spaces in front of the Mount Auburn Hospital, I submit the attached report from the Traffic and Parking Department as well as a letter sent by the Commission on Handicapped Persons to the President of the Mount Auburn Hospital.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda # 3 *S-454*

Response to City Council Order No. 13 of
May 1, 1989 re: the installation of
handicapped parking spaces in front of the
Mt. Auburn Hospital.

In City Council,

June 12, 1989

Placed on file