



Perry L. Anderson Jr.
Police Commissioner

City of Cambridge
Police Department
Office of the Commissioner

TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3300

FAX
(617) 349-3320

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

January 15, 1992

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, Mass.

Ref: Council Order # 13, dated November 25, 1991
Parking violation received by a resident of Lawn Street

Sir:

Attached is a copy of the investigation conducted by this department in reference to Council Order # 13, dated November 25, 1991.

The officer involved in this alleged incident did not violate any of the rules and regulations of this department.

Perry L. Anderson, Jr.
Police Commissioner

PLA:smc

copy attached

RECEIVED
51 JAN 17 AM 9:10
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Lieutenant David DeGou
FROM: Sergeant Joseph McSweeney
SUBJECT: Council Order #13, dated 11/25/92, RE: Parking
Violation received by a resident of Lawn St.

DATE: January 10, 1992

REFERENCE:

ALLEGATIONS:

On November 19, 1991, Millicent D. Gamache 73 Lawn Street Cambridge Tele, 876-8218, sent a letter to the parking clerk regarding a parking violation she believed was given to her for wrong direction parking under suspicious circumstances.

Ms. Gamache believes that she was deliberately singled out by Officer Gurry after having an argument with another woman employee at her place of work. This woman's husband is a police officer in a city other than Cambridge.

This woman is alleged to have bragged openly about having her husband's Police "friends" check-out people and ticket individuals who she has had arguments with. On November 17, 1991 she was tagged after having a verbal dispute with this woman employee on November 16, 1991 and would like this investigated.

Interview: Officer Jay Gurry Cambridge Police.

On Friday January 4, 1992 I met Officer Gurry regarding this alleged incident. He stated "on the date and time in question he was doing a signal 86 in Corcoran Park Housing Area (park and walk, - listed on activity sheet) see attached #1. He observed a motor vehicle parked on a fire hydrant at 71 Oxford Street at the corner of Oxford and Lawn Street, upon looking across the intersection he observed the car in question parked in the wrong direction and tagged this motor vehicle. Then continued walking through the housing development.

Officer Gurry stated "He did not see any other motor vehicles in violation, nor does he know the owners of either vehicles tagged or have any knowledge of the unknown person(s) complainant referred to in her letter". (P650 Attached #2)

Interview: Millicent Gamache,

I met with Ms. Gamache Saturday, January 4, 1992, at 6:20PM at her home. She was pleasant, sincere and frustrated. In thinking it was more than a coincidence that on November 16, 1991, she had a disagreement and the next day November 17, 1991, she received a parking ticket.

I requested the name, address and place of work of this unscrupulous woman mentioned in her letter, who is alleged to manipulate police officers who are friends of her police officer husband. Ms Gamache stated "She was only interested if other motor vehicles were tagged this night" but was unwilling to give me the information I needed to continue this investigation. I informed her that I would get back to her after I checked with the traffic department computer regarding the other parking tickets in Officer Gurry's tag book.

Second Interview: Millicent Gamache

Monday January 6, 1992, at 7:30PM, at the home of Ms. Gamache. At this meeting she was shown a computer printout from the Traffic Department that clearly indicated that prior to her motor vehicle being tagged a car directly across the street at 71 Oxford Street was tagged for parking on a Fire Hydrant. (see attached #3)

I made it perfectly clear that the Cambridge Police Department would not tolerate any unprofessional conduct by its officers. Furthermore, any arbitrary, capricious, abuse of discretion could result in a Civil Rights Violation for any Police Officer who under color of law abuses his police powers.

Ms. Gamache stated "She was happy with the investigation in learning she was not the only person tagged this night", but was still unwilling to give the name of the woman who was alleged to be behind this act, and requested no further action be taken and apologized for any inconvenience.

Finding: Cleared

This investigation clearly shows that the complained of act did not occur, that the issuing of this parking ticket did not constitute any violation of policy, orders or law. Ms Gamache admitted in her complaint letter that she was in violation. After she was shown documented proof that another motor vehicle was tagged across the street, she realized that her car was not singled out and requested no further action be taken. The only conclusion that can be drawn from the attached facts is that Officer Jay Gurry acted properly and the complaint is unfounded.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. Joseph M. Lacey

[Signature]
1/14/92



City of Cambridge

13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 25, 1991

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR MYERS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to investigate the problem mentioned in the attached letter and to report back to the City Council within two weeks.

In City Council November 25, 1991.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-


John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk



November 19, 1991

Parking Clerk
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
P.O. Box 2004
Cambridge, MA 02139-9113

RE: Violation #06877206-0/Wrong Direction Parking

Dear Sir(s) or Madam(s):

I am writing in response to a parking violation, a copy of which is enclosed, that I received on Sunday night, November 17, 1991 that I am disputing because I feel I received the ticket under very suspicious circumstances which I will explain in this letter, as follows:

I have lived at 73 Lawn Street in Cambridge for six (6) years. In the entire time that I have lived there, it has been common practice for everyone who lives on this street to park in the wrong direction at one time or another. Since there are almost no driveways on the street, with the exception of one or two, there are close to twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) cars at any given time parked on the street. Of those 25 cars, approximately half are parked in the wrong direction at any given time of the day or night. I am assuming this is because we live on a very quiet side street with little traffic other than local traffic. I have NEVER and I repeat, NEVER, seen anyone ticketed for this particular violation. NEVER!!

That's the first suspicious factor to this incident. Secondly, I have NEVER seen or heard of police officers handing out parking tickets at night in this area. The area is usually patrolled by Meter Maids during daylight hours. That's number two. Thirdly, upon finding the ticket stuck to my passenger side window at 10:55 pm, (30 minutes later), I walked down the street and around the block and I counted nine (9) cars on my street and an additional six (6) cars around the block, parked in the wrong direction!! NOT one single car had a ticket except mine.

Continued . . .



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE/Parking Clerk
November 19, 1991
Violation #06877206-0
Page Two

So far, what we have here is a one time random police officer, picking a one time random evening, to give just one random car a parking ticket. Any other time, a person would have to think it was just "bad luck". Not so this time. I know that for sure and I'll explain why.

I work with a woman and have worked with her for approximately ten (10) years. She is married to a police officer in a nearby town. She and her husband do not live nor work in Cambridge, but as I said her husband does work, as a police officer, in a nearby town. She has bragged openly to us at work, that she will ask friends of her husband's to "check out" and perhaps ticket people who she has had disputes with. Well, yes, you guessed it. She and I had a very small verbal dispute on Saturday night, November 16, 1991, just one night prior to this suspicious, first-time ticket. There was no physical assault, no personal injury; just a small verbal altercation that lasted about two minutes and surprise, surprise, Sunday night, the VERY next night, I received a ticket under the circumstances I have already described.

Now, I realize you are probably thinking that I am going to great lengths to get out of paying a parking ticket and I am. But only because I KNOW, without a doubt, that I was ticketed ONLY because I had a disagreement with the wrong person. If I have to pay this ticket, so be it. I have always been a law abiding citizen with very few tickets of any kind, which I have paid promptly and I am outraged to be the victim of these RGB tactics.

If you don't believe my story, and yes, I know I can't prove it, I hope you will at least have enough morals or enough faith in the democratic system to pull this officer aside and ask why he/she randomly picked Sunday night to randomly ticket one car out of over fifteen (15) cars in the area when it is not the practise of the Cambridge police, but rather the daytime Cambridge Meter Maids to perform this task. If you do not, I will know that such tactics are condoned by superior officers, making this a much more tragic state of affairs than I could ever dream of.

Continued . . .



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE/Parking Clerk
November 19, 1991
Violation #06877206-0
Page Three

What is really scary about all this, is not just that it reminds me of the horror stories I grew up with about people in communist countries that speak out and then disappear forever. The really scary part is that a police officer who's salary is paid for with MY tax money, not this woman's, would allow himself/herself to become involved in someone else's petty disputes. Now, that's scary! Reminds me of when I was in high school or junior high school!!

I look forward to your response. I place my faltering trust in our law enforcement organization in your hands.

Sincerely,

Millicent D. Gamache
73 Lawn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

MDG:mg

Enclosure:

CC:Commissioner Terry Anderson, Jr., Cambridge Police Dept.
Cambridge City Counselors, at large
Cambridge State Representative, Charles Flaherty
Cambridge State Senator, Michael Barrett

P.S. The parking situation is parallel parking on my street and the cars parked in front of me and behind me were both parked in the exact same direction that I was. They did NOT have tickets!

VIOLATION

CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

06877206-0

11 17 91

STATE

☒ MA ☐ NH ☐ NY ☐ CT ☐ RI ☐ NJ

OTHER
(0000)

PLATE COLOR

PLATE TYPE

☒ REG ☐ COMM

214 IAR

MAKE

MODEL

YEAR

TYPE

TOY

OTHER MAKE

☐ CHEV ☐ FORD ☐ DODGE ☐ DATSUN ☐ PLYM ☐ VW ☐ TOY

☐ OTHER

TIME

A.M.
P.M.

A.M.
P.M.

VEHICLE COLOR

LOCATION

73 Lynn St

METER NO.

OFFICER

P. J. Lundy

BADGE NO.

192

ROUTE NO.

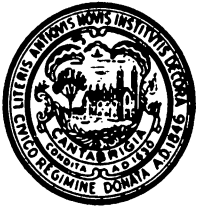
2AR

COMMENTS

- | | | | |
|--|------|--|------|
| ☐ A1 Meter Zones: 1 and 2 | \$10 | ☐ E1 No Stopping | \$15 |
| ☐ B2 Overtime | \$10 | ☐ E2 Bus Stop | \$15 |
| ☐ B6 Not in Meter Space | \$10 | ☐ E3 Double Stopping | \$15 |
| ☐ B7 Over 1 ft. from Curb | \$10 | ☐ E4 Within Intersection | \$15 |
| ☐ B8 Snow Emerg. Local St. | \$10 | ☐ E5 Bus Stopping other than Bus Stop | \$15 |
| ☐ C4 Restricted Area | \$15 | ☐ E6 Safety Zone/Island | \$15 |
| ☒ C5 Wrong Direction Parking | \$15 | ☐ E9 Resident Permit Only | \$15 |
| ☐ C6 Storage | \$15 | ☐ E10 Snow Emerg. Main St. | \$15 |
| ☐ D1 No Standing Area | \$15 | ☐ E11 Hydrant within 10 ft. | \$25 |
| ☐ D2 Driveway, Alley Obstructed | \$15 | ☐ E12 Crosswalk | \$15 |
| ☐ D3 Within 20 ft. of Intersection | \$15 | ☐ E13 Sidewalk | \$15 |
| ☐ D4 Less than 10 ft. from Lane | \$15 | ☐ G1 HP/DV Parking Only | \$50 |
| ☐ D6 Taxi Stand | \$15 | ☐ G2 Handicap Ramp | \$50 |
| ☐ D7 Street Cleaning/Snow Removal | \$15 | ☐ E14 Other | \$15 |

Place check or money order, payable to the Parking Clerk, City of Cambridge, in this envelope and mail within 21 days. Or an authorized person may bring this ticket and payment to Parking Violator Bureau, 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA between 9:00 AM-4:00 PM. If payment is made after 21 days, this fine is increased.

PLEASE PEEL OFF TAPE AND FOLD FLAP TO SEAL ENVELOPE.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 27, 1992

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 17, regarding a parking violation received by a Cambridge resident, received from Perry L. Anderson, Police Commissioner, relative to this issue.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 *S-85*

Awaiting Report Item No. 17 regarding a
parking violation received by a Cambridge
resident.

In City Council,

January 27, 1992

Placed on file