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CAMBRIDGE MA.

May 31, 1989

Mr. George Teso
Director
Cambridge Traffic Department
Cambridge City Hall Annex
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Teso:

We believe that a serious traffic problem exists on Allston Street in Cambridgeport that requires the immediate attention of the Cambridge Traffic Department. As you are no doubt aware, Allston Street is a densely populated residential street running between Putnam and Sydney Avenues. It runs west to east, starting at Putnam Avenue.

We believe that an unacceptable amount of commercial and through traffic is using Allston Street these days, creating a dangerous situation for the residents of the street and adversely affecting the quality of our lives. This traffic is apparently generated due to the fact that Allston Street allows for easy access from the two large arterial roads to the west of Cambridgeport (Western and River Avenues) through to the industrial/commercial portion of Cambridgeport lying to the east of the residential section. A lot of this traffic apparently comes down Allston Street in order to avoid the lights on Putnam Avenue.

It is time for the Cambridge Traffic Department to do something about the inherently dangerous situation on Allston Street. Not only are there two playgrounds on Allston Street (which attract many of Cambridgeport's children and thus make both commercial traffic and fast-moving through traffic on the street especially dangerous), but the street is simply too narrow and too dense residentially to handle the commercial and through traffic it currently receives. The noise, dirt, and apprehension caused by the steady flow of such traffic on Allston Street affects all of us in ways that must be alleviated, and in part through assistance from the Cambridge Traffic Department.

We have a number of proposals for dealing with the problem of commercial and through traffic on Allston Street. First, it is our position that Allston Street should be closed to all commercial traffic except for home deliveries. This can be accomplished by posting the appropriate signs at the important

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intersections on Allston Street (Putnam and Allston, Magazine and Allston, Pearl and Allston). Second, in order to cut down on the through traffic that speeds down Allston Street, we would like to see the street limited to residential traffic only (again, through the posting of signs), or if this is infeasible, have speed limit signs or other speed control devices established on the street. Finally, we propose that the issue of changing the direction of Allston Street, or perhaps even only one of its blocks, be examined by the Cambridge Traffic Department in order to evaluate whether non-residential traffic could be controlled this way.

We realize that the overall road scheme of the Cambridgeport area is being analyzed in connection with the commercial development occurring at University Park and elsewhere in the area. However, we cannot wait until the the overall improvement scheme is developed and implemented for improvements on Allston Street to occur--we need your immediate attention and assistance in dealing with this serious problem.

Thank you for your help on this matter. A group of Allston Street residents is very interested in meeting with you about this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. The people you should contact about this are Jon Kaledin (864-5517) or John Wentzell (876-7322).

RESIDENTS OF ALLSTON STREET

Jon Kaledin - 239 Allston St
Jocie S. Brown - 239 Allston St.
Joanne M. Avery 237 ALLSTON ST
Rose S. Clark 232 Allston St
Robert H. Clark 232 Allston St
Ellen M. Donato 228 Allston St.
Frank Donato 228 Allston St.
Joseph T. Melanson 230 Allston St.
Mary E. Melanson 230 Allston St.
(signatures continued)
Joan Sweetland 2 Allston St.
Bob Sweetland " " "

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Claire M. Burke 231 Allston St.

René Wyzard 3 Allston St

M. Wyzard 3 Allston Ct Camb

Robert Steele 3 Allston Court Camb.

John J. Dunn 1 Allston Court Camb.

Theresa C. Rogers 214 Allston St Camb.

John Rogers 214 ALLSTON ST CAMB MA

Scott Haas 4 Allston Court Camb 02139

John Green 4 Allston Ct Camb 02139

Jacqui Wood 209 ALLSTON, CAMBRIDGE 02139

Richard Wilkins 209 Allston St. Camb. 02139

Joan O'Brien 217 Allston St " 02139

Ann Carbone 240 Allston St 02139

Salvatore M. Camak 240 Allston St 02139

Nancy Brown Wentzel 239 Allston Street 02139

John E. Wentzel 239 Allston Street 02139

cc: Cambridge City Council ✓
Cambridge Chronicle
Cambridge Tab

6. H-80

Comm. received from 27 residents of Allston St., transmitting a copy of their letter to the Traffic Dept. Re: a serious traffic problem due to the amount of commercial & through traffic using the street & urging that Allston St. be closed to all commercial traffic with the exception of home deliveries & other measures.

2 copies sent to C. mgr
6/13/89 (ad)

In City Council,

Juen 12, 1989

Referred to City manager
with request from
Councillor D. Sullivan that
C. mgr. and Traffic Director
meet with area residents
that are contained in this
petition