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**Idea for Transportation Proposal  
December 18, 1995**

- Four years ago ground was broken for Cambridge Taxi School
- Two years ago school established (March 1, 1993)
- Cambridge Taxi Week \*\*\*
- Taxi stands \*\*
- Home rule Petition \*\*\*
- Broken ground for accessible vans
- Established a "working" communication among
  1. Hotel Association
  2. Traffic & Parking
  3. Commission for persons with disabilities
  4. Counsel on aging- Laura Offerdahl WGBH
  5. Cambridge Substance Abuse
  6. Cambridge Historical
  7. Cambridge License Commission
  8. Mayors Office
  9. Counsel
  10. Taxi drivers themselves

These victories provide hope and an example for the future to improve upon. Time has come for specialize agencies to work closer together to plan for the future. Such a body i.e. Susan Clippinger Liz Epstein, Benjamin Barnes, Hotel Association, Chamber of Commerce, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Council on aging Cambridge Taxi Industry to name a few.(This list is just an example of some of the possible considerations.) The fact that the resources and wisdom of many is much stronger and more objective than a few allows for a more creative design. We must plan not only to be prepared for needs of the future but to help educate and further develop existing forms currently part of the Cambridge transportation industry. This is no easy task. In the past we have relied upon committees for temporary solutions to current problems. We must provide such a resource to insure growth and security by examining the goals of the future by agencies forming a working body making decisions together.

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNSEL  
C/C MARGARET DRURY  
December 14, 1995

RECEIVED BY  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
1995 DEC 14 PM 4:28  
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dear Counsel members:

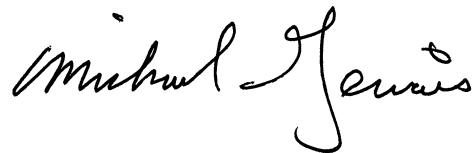
Thursday December 14, 1995 I completed my last class as director of the Cambridge Taxi School. As I think back on the first time I had the opportunity to address this forum I remember what a scary experience it was for me. All of you appeared so mean and intimidating and insensitive at first and frankly I don't remember how I was able to find the courage to stand before this group with cameras, etc. I guess after a few times and a lot of support from everyone from the Mayor's office to friends in the cab industry (Arthur Santoro, Bill Cavallini,) to relatives inspired me not only to try to answer questions I had but questions others had as well. The relationships I developed with counsel members and people of Cambridge were very special and important to me and for allowing me a cab driver charging with the rage of ( I have often been compared to a bull in a china shop) many trying to communicate universal feeling among all drivers for these great experiences I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for listening.

Over the past four years I have enjoyed the privilege to be involved in some community projects that (hopefully have increased an overall awareness of Cambridge Taxi Industry) Among them the breaking of the ground for wheelchair accessible vans, Cambridge Taxi Week March 1. Hopefully we won't run into problems getting the sign painted as we did last year. Rules and regulations helped bring about a more focused and informative "sense" of the relationships necessary not only for Taxis to operate more efficiently for Cambridge tourism who are enjoying Cambridge History and beauty, Businesses who are attracted to Cambridge's Hotels that provide a unique atmosphere to hold conventions and functions. We cannot loose sight however of the responsibilities Cambridge has (upheld to the citizens of Cambridge in the past) who rely on Public transportation along with Taxis and various other forms of transportation that fulfill their varied needs. We mustn't be attracted to

quick fixes or solutions that provide immediate effect to our problems without first considering or examining the possible implications change will bring forth.

As I have reflected upon the positive aspects of Taxi industry's growth the past few years In order for me to continue to act responsibly I must inform you of needs of the present and recommendations for future positive growth of all modes of transportation who serve every type of industry in Cambridge. We have grown to a point where former methods of regulation cannot adequately service such a varied specialized needs. As new transportation ideas are implemented without consideration of present forms we begin to alienate and become self destructive in our quest for change and progress. Our goals are short term and not well examined. When this happens Quality of service is lost economic growth is not stimulated And the distraction of many industries is inevitable.

To grow as an industry (Taxis, Shuttles, etc.) we must build relationships with a strong sense of the needs of all parties concerned, for the future economic growth of all parties concerned. We are proposing to this counsel to take the necessary steps for the future of Cambridge (as I asked you some years ago) To develop a transportation commission to deal with all aspects of the needs of the public with regard to present and future forms of transportation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'J'.

Consent Communication #8

S-407

Communication received from Michael Gervais, Director of the Cambridge Taxi School, requesting the development of a transportation commission to deal with the needs of the public with regard to present and future forms of transportation.

In City Council December 18, 1995

*Consented Communication  
Received at the  
meeting*

*Placed on file.*