

107 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts
10 January 1976

James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

On Saturday, 3 January 1976 at 8:00 A.M., I heard the DPW trucks for the city collecting the trash on my street and I looked out of my third floor bedroom window to make sure that my trash was being collected. It was fortunate for me that I looked for I observed one of the trucks in the process of making an illegal left-hand turn from Prince Street onto Pleasant Street and in so doing striking the front left fender and ripping the side strip of chrome from my car. My car was legally parked on Prince Street in a snow bank in the parking space nearest the corner.

The driver had swung close to my car in order to get around another car which was illegally parked at the corner on Pleasant Street. (See diagram.) But even after impact with my car, of which he was apparently aware, the driver still was unable to make the turn. Hence, he stopped, backed up a few feet, and re-angled his truck so as to maneuver the turn -- this time missing my car. He then proceeded to drive in the wrong direction on Pleasant Street.

Had the temperature not been sub-freezing and had I not been in the midst of dressing to go skiing, I would have dashed out the door and confronted the driver on the spot. But by the time I was appropriately dressed and out the door, I was horrified to discover that the truck was no longer on Pleasant Street and the driver had not stopped to leave a note on my car or in any way notify me of the damage he had done to my car.

A friend of mine, Sam Davis III, with whom I was going skiing, was downstairs at the time and upon hearing my call to look out the window, he witnessed the accident and the truck driving away. I immediately called City Hall but because it was Saturday, I got no answer.

I think it is deplorable that a city-employee could damage someone's car while carrying out his duties in a city vehicle and ignore his responsibility to make an attempt to contact the owner or leave a note on the damaged car and report the incident to his superior. I trust that the City of Cambridge does not condone this type of action.

I would greatly appreciate your assurance that I will be reimbursed for the damages done to my car. I delayed writing this letter on the advice of an attorney with whom I work who told me to get an estimate of the damages to enclose in this letter. I was unable to get an estimate last week because of my job and the inclement weather, but I will send one within the week.

Please contact me concerning this at your earliest convenience. I can be reached by mail at the above address or by telephone at 661-0441 (evenings) or during working hours at Massachusetts Law Reform Institute 482-0890. Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this matter, I am

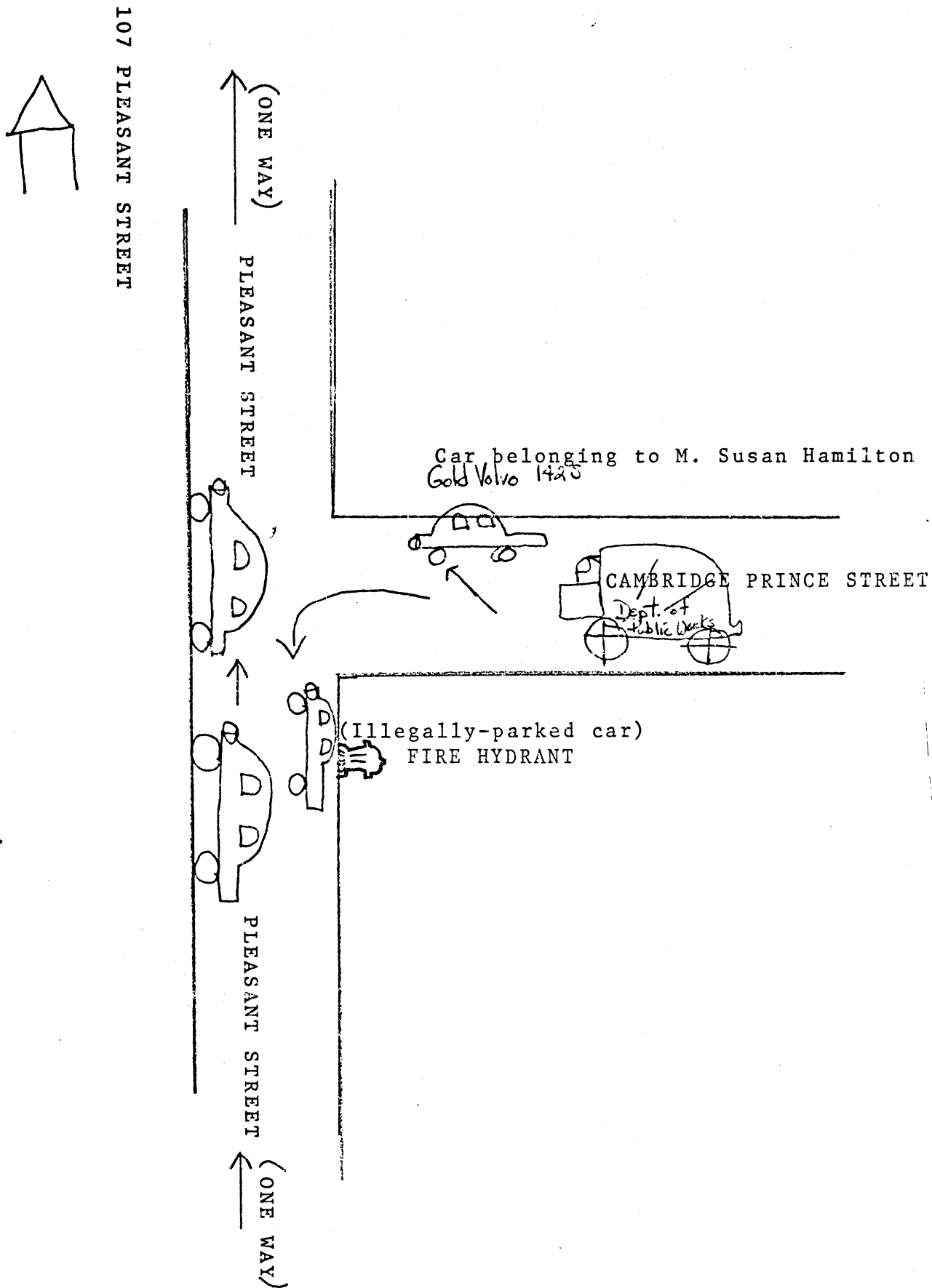
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Susan Hamilton".

M. Susan Hamilton

cc: Saundra Graham
Leonard Russell
Walter Sullivan
Alfred Vellucci
David Clem
Barbara Ackermann
Daniel Clinton
Thomas Danehy
Francis Duehay
Edward McCarthy
Conrad Fagone
Paul Healy

DIAGRAM: PERTAINING TO DPW INCIDENT
on 3 January 1976



15. S-13

Comm. from M. Susan Hamilton requesting
reimbursement for damages done to her
automobile.

In City Council,
January 19, 1976

1/19/76

Referred to the
Committee on Claims