



City of Cambridge

52.

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~March 18, 1996~~

March 25, 1996

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Clarendon Avenue is a narrow residential side street that runs between Teele Square in Somerville and Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge; and

WHEREAS: Through traffic from Somerville frequently speeds downhill on Clarendon Avenue toward Massachusetts Avenue; and

WHEREAS: The Burns Apartments housing complex on Churchill Avenue exists onto Clarendon Avenue; and

WHEREAS: Burns residents with physical disabilities, impaired vision and hearing, and other infirmities use the sidewalks along Clarendon Avenue to reach outdoor seating areas in the adjacent park and the nearby bus stops, medical buildings, stores, and restaurants on Massachusetts Avenue; and

WHEREAS: Young children who live directly opposite the playground on Clarendon Avenue often cross the street and bicycle in the vicinity of 10 Clarendon Avenue and

WHEREAS: Their parents have expressed concern that the speeding vehicles on Clarendon Avenue endanger the safety of these children, and

WHEREAS: Day Care providers and others who regularly use the tot lot at this location have voiced similar concerns for the safety of toddlers who might wander off the sidewalk and into the street; and

WHEREAS: The nearest crosswalk is at Massachusetts Avenue and Clarendon Avenue, an intersection traversed by more than 30,000 motor vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS: Collisions resulting in property damage and personal injury have occurred here repeatedly over the past decade and still continue at this corner; and this sidewalk is not marked by signs or prominent striping; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct appropriate city departments to take the following steps without delay:

1. Post prominent signs along both sides of Clarendon Avenue indicating the speed limit and cautioning motorists to slow down near the playground and watch for children and elders; and
2. Widen the crosswalk at Massachusetts Avenue, repaint it with light-reflecting horizontal striping, and mark it with prominent signs warning that pedestrians have the right of way; and
3. Report on the feasibility of
 - (a) lowering the legal speed limit in Clarendon Avenue,
 - (b) enforcing the existing speed limit more vigorously, and
 - (c) adding a second crosswalk on Clarendon Avenue at the main entrance to Clarendon Park, so that the hundreds of elders, children, and others who live on Clarendon Avenue can cross the street conveniently and without having to jaywalk or detour through the commercial zone to use the dangerous crosswalk at the corner; and be it further

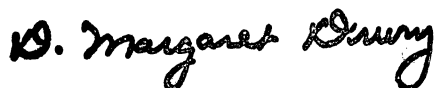
RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to this City Council with a detailed response to this request before warm weather substantially increases pedestrian activity at this location.

In City Council March 25, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- 

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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52.

DRAFT (Clarendon Ave. Crosswalk/Signs)

WHEREAS Clarendon Avenue is a narrow residential side street that runs between Teale Square in Somerville and Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge, and

Whereas through traffic from Somerville frequently speeds downhill on Clarendon Avenue toward Massachusetts Avenue, and

Whereas the Burns Apartments housing complex on Churchill Avenue exits onto Clarendon Avenue, and

Whereas Burns residents with physical disabilities, impaired vision and hearing, and other infirmities use the sidewalks along Clarendon Avenue to reach outdoor seating areas in the adjacent park and the nearby bus stops, medical buildings, stores, and restaurants on Massachusetts Avenue, and

Whereas young children who live directly opposite the playground on Clarendon Avenue often cross the street and bicycle in the vicinity of 10 Clarendon Avenue, and

Whereas their parents have expressed concern that the speeding vehicles on Clarendon Avenue endanger the safety of these children, and

Whereas day care providers and others who regularly use the tot lot at this location have voiced similar concerns for the safety of toddlers who might wander off the sidewalk and into the street, and

Whereas the nearest crosswalk is at Massachusetts Avenue and Clarendon Avenue, an intersection traversed by more than 30,000 motor vehicles per day, and

Whereas collisions resulting in property damage and personal injury have occurred here repeatedly over the past decade and still continue at this corner; and

Whereas this crosswalk is not marked by signs or prominent striping, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the appropriate city departments to take the following steps without delay:

1. Post prominent signs along both sides of Clarendon Avenue indicating the speed limit and cautioning motorists to slow down near the playground and watch for children and elders.

2. Widen the crosswalk at Massachusetts Avenue, repaint it with light-reflecting horizontal striping, and mark it with prominent signs warning that pedestrians have the right-of-way.

3. Report on the feasibility of

(a) lowering the legal speed limit on Clarendon Avenue,

(b) enforcing the existing speed limit more vigorously, and

(c) adding a second crosswalk on Clarendon Avenue at the main entrance to Clarendon Park, so that the hundreds of elders, children, and others who live on Clarendon Avenue can cross the street conveniently and without having to jaywalk or detour through the commercial zone to use the dangerous crosswalk at the corner; and be it further

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Born, Davis, Gallicchio, Russell
Consent Order #52 Sullivan + Triantafillo
Councillor Duehay re: Traffic
problems on Clarendon Avenue. CM-144

In City Council March 18, 1996

3/25/96

Order adopted

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