



City of Cambridge

6.

COUNCILLOR D. SULLIVAN

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 25, 1984

WHEREAS:

The attached letter from the Cambridge Committee of Elders, Inc., complains about inadequate enforcement of the "pooper scooper" ordinance, among other things; and

WHEREAS:

The attached New York Times story indicates that, six years after a "pooper scooper" law took effect in that city, 60 percent of all dog waste is now being disposed of properly; therefore, be it

ORDERED:

That the City Manager be requested to devise a written plan for obtaining similar results soon under Cambridge's ordinance, and report this plan to the City Council after the summer recess.

In City Council June 25, 1984.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.

Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

THE CAMBRIDGE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS, INC.

15 Pearl Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
868-0800

Founded June 15, 1970

Al Lindsey, President
James Skelton, 1st V.P.
Catherine Hanley, 2nd V.P.
Oliver Cox, Treasurer
Charles Ash, Secretary
Edward Cyr, Director

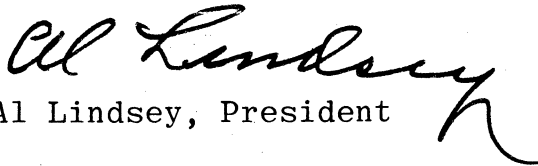
To His Honor The Mayor & Honorable City Council:

The Cambridge Committee of Elders would like to add its voice to the chorus of concern being raised over the deplorable condition of sidewalks in our city. WE support our friends at the Council on Aging in calling for a dramatically improved public works response to this growing crisis. The plain truth is that many of our cities sidewalks are now impassible. For a spry walker it might be possible to skip and hop between the cracks and potholes, but for many older people it is not.

We would like to add to this complaint our concern that nothing seems to be being done to keep our sidewalks free of snow in the winter or animal droppings year round. The city has strong laws to punish infractions such as these but unless some effort is made to enforce the laws they are useless. The utter disregard people show towards their neighbors in each of these instances should not be tolerated. Why should we show more respect to them than they show to us?

Thank you very much for your attention and timely consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,


Al Lindsey, President

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1984
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Metropolitan Report

6 Years of Canine-Waste Law: All in All, a Cleaner New York



Dr. Sandy Shepherd walking her Labrador retriever.

By JAMES BROOKE

Six years after a state law ordered city dog owners to clean up after their dogs, New York's canine population appears to be increasingly street-broken.

"It's definitely better — and it's a lot healthier," said Dr. Sandy Shepherd, a physician, as she walked along Central Park West the other day. With one hand, she clutched a cardboard scoop, and with the other, she restrained her lively young Labrador, Lucky Puppy.

Nearby, Sam Glen, 13 years old, raced a remote-controlled miniature car over a park dog run. "This place used to be so bad it was off-limits to people," he said. "Now it's cleaned up. People are taking more responsibility for their dogs."

New Yorkers heading for the parks in these warm summer months will encounter far less dog waste than before New York's "pooper scooper" law was passed, say dog walkers, city officials and people relaxing in parks.

Summonses Doubled

Compliance is difficult to measure. But some statistics may encourage cautious pedestrians to raise their eyes from the sidewalks and park lanes.

With little fanfare, city workers in the last three years have doubled the number of summonses handed out to offending dog owners. In fiscal year 1982, the city issued 1,845 summonses. In fiscal year 1984, which ends this month, the city expects to tabulate slightly more than 4,000, although only about half of those who receive summonses actually pay them.

The minimum fine has been doubled, from \$25 to \$50. And last week, the State Legislature closed a loophole to require dog walkers, and not only dog owners, to clean up after their dogs.

The object of countless jokes when it went into effect in mid-1978, New York's canine waste law is credited with inspiring similar ordinances in Boston and Philadelphia.

"For a while, I kept a list of cities that contacted us for information, but it got too long," said Vito A. Turso, a spokesman for New York's Sanitation



The New York Times/Fred R. Conrad

Nina Krasavina, professional dog walker, approves of law on waste removal. "It's a good law, and it's not a problem," she says.

Department. Overseas inquiries came from 25 cities, including London, Paris, Brussels, Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. Turso, estimating that there are half a million dogs in the city, calculated that 22,800 tons of dog waste fall on the streets and sidewalks, parks and playgrounds each year. But pointing to "a new sensitivity to the problem," he estimated that 60 percent is now scooped up and thrown away.

"The improvement is noticeable, there has been a tremendous effort citywide," said Dr. Patricia Livingston, head of the New York City Coalition for Dog Control, a citizen group. After the law went into effect, the

coalition sponsored an advertising campaign using the slogan "Your dog can't read — you can."

"The law had a very good effect," said Henry J. Stern, the city's Parks Commissioner. "It made cleaning up after your dog a respectable and honorable act."

With the coming of the warm weather, the city's park police and sanitation enforcement agents have been put on the alert for so-called canine-waste violators. The Police Department, the Health Department, the Department of Environmental Protection and the

Continued on Page 41, Column 1

6 Years of Dog Waste Law: All in All, the City Is Cleaner

Continued From Page 25

housing police are also empowered to issue summonses.

But dog controllers and dog owners agree that civilian peer pressure is often as effective as police enforcement.

"I stop and look at people, and that often gets them to clean up," said Dave Davisson, membership secretary of Friends of Central Park.

"I don't like going by and seeing it, and I don't like laying on the grass and having it near me," said Paula Scibarrasi as — plastic bag in hand — she walked her dog, Chou-Chou, in Carl Schurz Park on the Upper East Side.

"I think it's a good law, and it's not a problem," said Nina Krasavina, a professional dog walker who was marching seven dogs up Fifth Avenue, a

satchel stocked with sheets of newspaper on her shoulder.

Plastic sandwich bags, paper towels and cardboard have largely replaced the often unwieldy "pooper scoopers." These contraptions are now mementos of the chic days of canine waste when television cameramen jostled to film Toto, the dog star of the musical "The Wiz," inaugurating a Manhattan "canine comfort station."

"We started with eight models, but now we are down to two," Tom Cloonen of Le Dog Spa, a pet-accessory store on East 78th Street, said of the scoopers.

New York's current state of canine cleanliness could be summed up with the assessment of John Dillon, who was sunning himself in Carl Schurz Park the other day.

"It looks O.K. to me," he said, inspecting the grass around him. "But I still watch out when I walk barefoot."

Order # 6 S 444

C.D. Sullivan order re: City Manager to
devise a written plan Re: adequate enforce-
ment of the "pooper scooper" ordinance.

In City Council,

June 25, 1984

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