



City of Cambridge

22.

Amended Order

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~March 18, 1996~~

March 25, 1996

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

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that Stop and Shop has agreed to continue the utility and telephone bill paying service that has been offered at the Purity Supermarket in Central Square indefinitely; and

WHEREAS: Many Central Square area residents, especially seniors, rely on the safety and convenience of this service, which enables them to cash a social security check, pay utility and telephone bills and then grocery shop, thus minimizing the need to walk around with large amounts of cash; and

WHEREAS: In taking this action, Stop and Shop has demonstrated a community spirit and sensitivity to its most vulnerable clientele; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its appreciation to Stop and Shop for agreeing to continue indefinitely its bill paying services at the Central Square Store.

In City Council March 25, 1996

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
 City Clerk



City of Cambridge

22.

Original Order

IN CITY COUNCIL

~~March 18, 1996~~

March 25, 1996

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that Stop and Shop has decided to cease the utility and telephone bill paying service that has been offered at the Purity Supermarket in Central Square; and

WHEREAS: Many Central Square area residents, especially seniors, rely on the safety and convenience of this service, which enables them to cash a social security check, pay utility and telephone bills and then grocery shop, thus minimizing the need to walk around with large amounts of cash; and

WHEREAS: The spirit of Stop and Shop's agreement with the Attorney General about maintaining the Central Square store as a grocery store means that this vital service should also be maintained indefinitely; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact Stop and Shop to reach an agreement to maintain the bill paying services at the Central Square store, and report back to the City Council.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SUSAN B. SCHLESINGER,
*Assistant City Manager for
Community Development*

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Susan Schlesinger
Assistant City Manager for Community Development

Re: Purity Supreme/Stop and Shop Update

Date: March 15, 1996

I want to update you on the situation related to the old Purity Supreme store in Central Square and Stop and Shop's commitment to continuing to provide check cashing services.

As you know, when Stop and Shop acquired Purity Supreme, they announced their intention to stop providing check cashing services as of March 31, 1996. Along with the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition and the Consumer Council, we communicated to Stop and Shop the importance of the continuance of check cashing services and urged them to reconsider their decision.

I am happy to let you know that as of Friday, Stop and Shop has agreed to continue its check cashing services at its Central Square store indefinitely.

City Hall Annex
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617 349-4600
Fax: 617 349-4669

received at postum 3/18/96

C. Toomey

~~Whereas:~~ It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that Stop and Shop has decided to cease the utility and telephone-bill paying service that has been offered at the Priority Supermarket ~~on~~ in Central Square; and

Whereas: Many Central Square area residents, especially seniors, rely on the safety and convenience of this service, which enables them to cash a Small Security check, pay utility and telephone bills and then grocery shop, thus minimizing the need to walk around with large amounts of cash; ~~and to utilize expensive check cashing and~~

Whereas: The spirit of Stop and Shop's agreement with the Attorney General about maintaining the Central Square store as a grocery store means that ~~this~~ this vital service should also be maintained; now therefore be it

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact Stop and Shop to reach an agreement to maintain the bill paying services at the Central Square store, ~~to be~~ and to report back to the City Council.



CAMBRIDGE CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

831 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel. (617) 349-6150

349-6153

serving the
residents of:

Cambridge
Boston

City Of Cambridge

Paul J. Schlaver
Executive Director

March 7, 1996

Robert Tobin, President
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
1358 Hancock Street
Quincy MA 02169

Dear Mr. Tobin:

The Cambridge Consumers' Council is a city agency designed to monitor the marketplace in Cambridge, to mediate consumer/business disputes and provide consumer educational service to the general populace. My office also receives funding from and works very closely with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

I am writing you about an issue of major concern to the Cambridge consumers and merchants of the Central Square area, namely your company's decision to cease the bill paying service that has been offered at the Purity Supermarket on Mass. Avenue in Central Square.

Central Square has a significant population of senior citizens that greatly rely on the safety and convenience of this service. In one visit to the store seniors can cash a Social Security check, pay utility and telephone bills and then grocery shop. They do not have to cash a check and then go out on the street to a check cashing store with a much larger amount of cash in hand to pay these bills and then return to the store to shop. This is adding an unnecessary safety risk and cost complication to their lives.

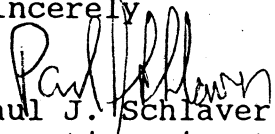
Many non-seniors use this service because they lack checking accounts or because they have negotiated a payment plan directly with a utility company and need to show their good faith by making an immediate payment through an official pay station as Purity. Others, including many small business persons also use this service. Purity is a vital heartbeat in the middle of Central Square. People appreciate this store even with all its "rough edges" and long overdue need to be physically upgraded. People that pay bills there also shop there, many times throughout the month.

I believe that the spirit of the agreement with the Attorney General about maintaining this location as a grocery store means that the vital services, as this one, should also be maintained.

Please continue this service. Let us take our chances with a new owner for the store that we can negotiate the continuation of such a service. This should not be a public battle now engaged in by your company, the city or the general public. All your "Central Square energy" should be on finding a buyer for the store. All our energy should continue as it has been for the last two years on the improvements and enhancements in Central Square to make it a more friendly, safe and thriving business and social center. On May 11th (tentatively) there will be a festive ceremony to kick off the major street improvements that will also greatly benefit your company as long as it owns this store and then the new owner for years to come.

Is it too much to seek an exemption from you for this one store from your new company policy about bill paying services? Your reconsideration will be greatly hailed and appreciated.

Sincerely


Paul J. Schlaver
Executive Director

cc. Sheila Russell, Cambridge Mayor
Susan Schlesinger, Cambridge CDD Director
Scott Harshbarger, Attorney General



City of Cambridge

22.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 1996

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that Stop and Shop has decided to cease the utility and telephone bill paying service that has been offered at the Purity Supermarket in Central Square; and

WHEREAS: Many Central Square area residents, especially seniors, rely on the safety and convenience of this service, which enables them to cash a social security check, pay utility and telephone bills and then grocery shop, thus minimizing the need to walk around with large amounts of cash; and

WHEREAS: The spirit of Stop and Shop's agreement with the Attorney General about maintaining the Central Square store as a grocery store means that this vital service should also be maintained; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to contact Stop and Shop to reach an agreement to maintain the bill paying services at the Central Square store, and report back to the City Council.

Born, Davis, Delaney, Galluccio
Consent Order #22 Reeves, Russell

Councillor Toomey re: Seek to change
Stop and Shop's decision to cease
the utility and telephone bill paying
service that has been offered at the
Purity Supermarket in Central Square.

response received by
Assistant City mgr
for Community Develop-
ment.

5-153

Triantafyllou

In City Council March 18, 1996

3/25/96

Order adopted as amended