

2 Larchwood Drive
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
November 10, 1974

John Sears, Commissioner
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Commissioner Sears:

Yesterday I saw a young man die. He lay inert in the passenger seat of a car which had hit the tree on "Suicide Bend" near my home. The driver, obviously in shock, just looked at him and called his name.

During the year that I have lived on Fresh Pond Parkway, at Larchwood Drive, I soon learned why people call that curve "suicide bend". Six weeks ago, I witnessed a spectacular three car collision, some months before another fatality and woman blinded. Not to mention the overturned car in our front yard, the squealing tires and brakes, the "mere" collisions, near misses and the ones I didn't hear or see.

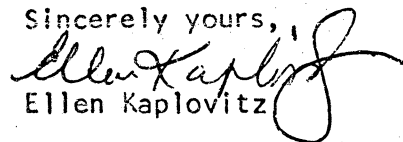
Fresh Pond Parkway is supposedly the responsibility of the Metropolitan District Commission. Why are the lights inadequate, the guardrails and warning signs nonexistent? Why are people maimed or killed here so often?

My neighbors claim that they have been writing and petitioning the MDC for years to alleviate this. We reside in a beautiful neighborhood and cherish the trees and flowers. Most of us value human life more. We are not asking that the trees be cut down. We are asking that you take immediate steps to protect us and every pedestrian and auto traveler from the dangers of this part of the Parkway. We ask for guardrails, warning signs and lights, for something more than tiny reflectors on the trees and signs which are knocked down and never replaced.

I don't think that I will stop being haunted by the tragedy of last night until I have done everything in my power to protect myself and my fellow citizens from such a blatantly inadequate and dangerous situation.

I expect an immediate reply from you as to the plans for Fresh Pond Parkway, between Brattle Street and Huron Avenue. Below is a list of some of the persons to whom I have sent this letter.

Sincerely yours,


Ellen Kaplovitz

cc: Cambridge Chronicle
Cambridge Police
Rescue
Ask the Globe
Mayor Sullivan
City Council
Rep. Flaherty

David Wylie
Sen. LoPresti
Neighborhood 10 Assoc.
Governor Sargent
Governor-elect Dukakis
Sen. Kennedy
Sen. Brooke

Neighbors
Com. McLaughlin

November 11, 1974

To Council members

Enclosed is a letter to John Sears about a condition about which I am shocked. I have been told by local policemen who arrive at the scene of our accidents that the city is powerless to do anything because it is the MOC. The MOC police last weekend said that commissioner (Sears) has not seen fit to appropriate funds. Why hasn't the City been putting pressure on him to do so. Will you now join with the letters from the neighborhood? Any person who drives on the Parkway at night is taking his life and his family's or friends' lives in his hands on that road. I hope you will look into this situation before more people lose their lives in our city.

Thank you.

Ellen Kaplowitz
2 Larchwood Drive
Cambridge 02138
(492-1076)

6. 234
Comm. from Ellen Kaplovitz relative to condition
on Fresh Pond Parkway and Larchwood Drive.

In City Council,

November 18, 1974

Referred to the City Mgr

and MDC

*Copy sent to City Manager
11/20/74 dl*

MDC

*CITY
Mgr*