



City of Cambridge

R-45.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record thanking the party responsible for the installation of a bench at the bus stop at the corner of Garfield Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

In City Council January 8, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councilman Davis

P. 45

~~Whereas~~

Res That the CC go on record thanking the party responsible for the installation of a bench at the bus stop at the corner of Garfield & Mass. Avenue

Order

Congratulations
to the party
who installed
a bench at
Grainfield +
Mass Ave

Subj: Garfield bus stop
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2000 9:41:55 PM
From: Astrid@world.std.com
To: terrydela
cc: randers@
henridavis

.com,
n.mec.edu

Oliver
Congratulations
to the party
who installed
a bench at
Garfield +
Mass Ave

Dear Friends,

I am tempted to say
get it." But this isn't
challenge is being ap
a polite way to say th

use you might
be a
hile finding

I have lobbied for several years -- starting before the CHA
housing was built on Garfield at Mass. Ave. -- to make the concrete
ledge around the MBTA vent shaft the serendipitous bus stop seat it so
delightfully turned out to be.

I was dismayed to discover that going to one meeting early on
was not enough because the CHA erected a tasteful grey stained wood
picket fence around the vent shaft. I spent hours talking to the CHA
and to the T about this -- 2-3 years ago. The T told me that this is
in fact an escape shaft and that they preferred no obstacle at street
level. The CHA told me the residents wanted landscaping that visually
diminished the fact that they live over a T vent shaft. I could not
budge anyone. I gave up. This was 3-4 years ago.

Since then I have taken to mentioning this in some public
forum or another about once a year. Apparently at one of the recent
forums, one of you were listening. Or you will know who was.

Tonight I went by that site and lo and behold I got my wish:
a BENCH has been cemented to the u-shaped insert between the two vent
shafts. That is the good news. For the effort and good will that
went into that, I profusely thank whoever is responsible.

This email is going to the persons I think might be
responsible OR know who is.

Now for the bad news: the bench, since it is about 20 feet
down from the head of the bus stop and 20 feet in from the sidewalk,
is in a position where a waiting transit rider cannot see the oncoming
bus. Or at least not in time to flag it. This is not just my

Subj: Garfield bus stop
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2000 9:41:55 PM
From: Astrid@world.std.com
To: terrydelancey@agassiz.org
cc: randers@ci.cambridge.ma.us, kathyborn@aol.com,
henridavis@aol.com, Miriam_Goldberg@newton.mec.edu

Dear Friends,

I am tempted to say "be careful what you wish for because you might get it." But this isn't exactly in that category. What will be a challenge is being appropriately grateful for the effort while finding a polite way to say the road to missed busses is paved with good intentions.

I have lobbied for several years -- starting before the CHA housing was built on Garfield at Mass. Ave. -- to make the concrete ledge around the MBTA vent shaft the serendipitous bus stop seat it so delightfully turned out to be.

I was dismayed to discover that going to one meeting early on was not enough because the CHA erected a tasteful grey stained wood picket fence around the vent shaft. I spent hours talking to the CHA and to the T about this -- 2-3 years ago. The T told me that this is in fact an escape shaft and that they preferred no obstacle at street level. The CHA told me the residents wanted landscaping that visually diminished the fact that they live over a T vent shaft. I could not budge anyone. I gave up. This was 3-4 years ago.

Since then I have taken to mentioning this in some public forum or another about once a year. Apparently at one of the recent forums, one of you were listening. Or you will know who was.

Tonight I went by that site and lo and behold I got my wish: a BENCH has been cemented to the u-shaped insert between the two vent shafts. That is the good news. For the effort and good will that went into that, I profusely thank whoever is responsible.

This email is going to the persons I think might be responsible OR know who is.

Now for the bad news: the bench, since it is about 20 feet down from the head of the bus stop and 20 feet in from the sidewalk, is in a position where a waiting transit rider cannot see the oncoming bus. Or at least not in time to flag it. This is not just my

opinion; I recently had occasion to compare notes with a young mother and her daughter -- whom she had just picked up from Agassiz after school -- about the fact that the only remaining open part of the concrete ledge left to sit on makes it impossible to see the bus.

I think the bench just installed is a wonderful idea. It will be a warm sunny place on a March afternoon for someone out to sun him/herself on a long walk.

But I cannot in good conscience leave it at that. I know only one thing about the benefactor who arranged this solution (besides his/her good intentions): s/he has never waited for a bus there. And people who do avail themselves of this pedestrian-friendly bench do so at their transit-using peril.

I feel certain that one of you knows who I should thank and I hope you will tell me who it is, so I can thank them AND plead with them to extend their good intentions just a little bit further.

All that is required is the removal of about 10 pickets in the fence -- nearest the head of the bus stop where it is possible to see the oncoming bus.

As for what is there today, I'd say "a miss is as good as a mile" but for the fact that this bench WILL make someone happy who is NOT taking the bus.

Astrid

-----Headers-----

Return-Path: <astrid@world.std.com>
Received: from rly-yc03.mx.aol.com (rly-yc03.mail.aol.com [172.18.149.35]) by air-yc01.mail.aol.com (v77.14) with ESMTP; Wed, 06 Dec 2000 21:41:55 -0500
Received: from europe.std.com (europe.std.com [199.172.62.20]) by rly-yc03.mx.aol.com (v77.27) with ESMTP; Wed, 06 Dec 2000 21:41:29 -0500
Received: from world.std.com (astrid@world-f.std.com [199.172.62.5]) by europe.std.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with ESMTP id UAA21010; Wed, 6 Dec 2000 20:09:43 -0500 (EST)
Received: (from astrid@localhost) by world.std.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) id UAA18456; Wed, 6 Dec 2000 20:09:40 -0500 (EST)
Date: Wed, 6 Dec 2000 20:09:40 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <200012070109.UAA18456@world.std.com>
From: Astrid Dodds <Astrid@world.std.com>
To: terrydelancey@agassiz.org
cc: randers@ci.cambridge.ma.us
cc: kathyborn@aol.com
cc: henridavis@aol.com
cc: Miriam_Goldberg@newton.mec.edu
Subject: Garfield bus stop



City of Cambridge

R-45.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 8, 2001

COUNCILLOR DAVIS

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record thanking the party responsible for the installation of a bench at the bus stop at the corner of Garfield Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

45R

Resolution #45

Thanks for installation of a bench at
bus stop of Garfield Street and
Massachusetts Avenue.

Councillor Davis

In City Council January 8, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED