



City of Cambridge

7.
IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor Walsh

June 4, 1990

WHEREAS: The content of the May 14, 1990 letter directed to the City Council (copy attached) from the Executive Vice President for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance on Traffic Mitigation and Parking Supply Restrictions deserves studied assessment and should not be dismissed or shunted aside by this Council; and

WHEREAS: The concerns expressed, i.e., perception that the Ordinance, as proposed, is a product of less than an inclusive participatory process; that a greater degree of equity be assured by assessing both long range and new plans for growth among affected entities; the potentially negative impact on some businesses in Cambridge, and on the city itself, by dulling the competitive edge of Cambridge as a good location for business siting; a seeming oversight of other essential factors in the Traffic Mitigation and Parking Supply Restrictions equation - these concerns warrant community-wide consideration; and

WHEREAS: "The letter's suggestion that the " ordinance as now construed " be set aside and a Blue Ribbon Committee be appointed with a mandate " to examine the full range of traffic issues, not only those that relate to future development " makes sense; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That, with all due haste, Her Honor, the Mayor, create such a Blue Ribbon Committee whose members will include:

- a designee of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce as approved by the Chamber's Board of Directors;
- a representative from the Community Development Department as designated by the Assistant City Manager for Community Development;
- a representative of the entire university/college community as designated by agreement among the appropriate administrators from each college;
- a registered voter within the City of Cambridge who is owner/occupant of residential property in Cambridge;



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- a registered voter within the City of Cambridge who is a renter within residential property in Cambridge;
- two (2) present members of Neighborhood Councils, designated by the agreement of the Advisory Committees of all the Neighborhood Councils to represent the legitimate interests of all the city's neighborhoods.

And, be it further

ORDERED: That Her Honor, the Mayor, advise the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee that this Council requests that an interim report or update be provided us at the Council Session scheduled for July 30, 1990, and a final report to be presented to us by the Council Session on September 24, 1990.

(ATTACHMENT)

Page 2 of 2 pages



City of Cambridge

AMENDED ORDER

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR WALSH

June 4, 1990

WHEREAS: The content of the May 14, 1990 letter directed to the City Council, copy attached, from the Executive Vice President for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce regarding the proposed Zoning Ordinance on Traffic Mitigation and Parking Supply Restrictions deserves studied assessment and should not be dismissed or shunted aside by the City Council; and

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- a registered voter within the City of Cambridge who is a renter within residential property in Cambridge;
- two (2) present members of Neighborhood Councils; and be it further

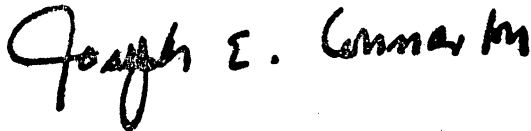
- 2 -

ORDERED: That Her Honor, the Mayor, advise the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee that this City Council requests that an interim report or update be provided by June 25, 1990.

In City Council June 4, 1990.
Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Connarton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.



City of Cambridge

ORIGINAL ORDER

7.

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COUNCILLOR WALSH

June 4, 1990

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ORDERED: That Her Honor, the Mayor, advise the members of the Blue Ribbon Committee that this City Council requests that an interim report or update be provided us at the City Council session scheduled for July 30, 1990, and a final report to be presented to us by the City Council session on September 24, 1990.



CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 14, 1990

To: The Honorable City Council
City Hall,
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Proposed Zoning Ordinance on Traffic
Mitigation and Parking Supply Restrictions

Dear Members of the Council:

I am writing to inform you that there is a great deal of confusion, concern, and lack of understanding on the part of the business community regarding the proposed traffic mitigation ordinance. The unresolved parking freeze issue which, to my understanding, is still being negotiated creates further confusion and uncertainty.

At its meeting on May 9, 1990, the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce voted unanimously to oppose the ordinance as written and to recommend more study of the issue.

I would like to communicate to you some of the concerns of the business community, to urge you to put aside the current ordinance, and to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee to form a traffic strategy for the City.

What are the concerns?

- There is widespread feeling that the ordinance is not the product of a cooperative problem solving effort between the City, residents and the business community. The greater the agreement that can be achieved the greater the likelihood for successful implementation and compliance.
This Council has stated its concern and commitment to process and cooperation. Delaying passage of this ordinance would provide an opportunity to re-enforce that commitment.
- There is concern about equity. The emphasis on new developments jeopardizes long standing plans of some organizations by focusing on new developments. The Cambridge Family Y communicated this point earlier in a letter to the Planning Board.

- The ordinance will place many Cambridge businesses in a competitive disadvantage with businesses in neighboring communities. Mitre Corporation and Lincoln Labs are able to provide sufficient space and thus attract scientists and engineers who might otherwise work in Cambridge and contribute to the city's financial well being.
- Mostly, the ordinance does not address the problems of traffic travelling through the city to reach other destinations or the significant increase in the use of automobiles by Cambridge residents, students and others. Further, it is unclear as to whether the ordinance is addressing the question of air quality or congestion relief. Without clear goals and a comprehensive strategy it will be difficult to achieve the desired results or measure the effectiveness of this ordinance.

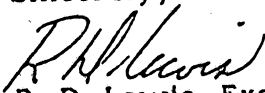
It is not the Chamber's intention to complicate an already complex problem. However, it is our responsibility to bring to your attention the concerns of the business community as they have been expressed. The Chamber seeks a partnership of understanding between you, the City's representatives, the business community, and the residents in the same way that the Chamber and member businesses have been working for such a partnership on other concerns including education and youth employment.

Members of the business community support your efforts to reduce pollution and traffic congestion but believe that this ordinance is not the right answer.

We urge you to set aside this ordinance as now construed and to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee as recommended by the Polaroid Corporation in their letter to the Planning Board dated March 20, 1990. (This recommendation was also sent to the City Council.) Polaroid's recommendation, which the Chamber supports, is to "examine the full range of traffic issues, not only those that relate to future development." Further, they call for a "city-wide organized effort to engage major landowners, employers and residents in pursuing voluntary measures to address traffic problems."

We are confident that a positive response to this recommendation will produce widespread support, involvement, and constructive results.

Sincerely,



R. D. Lewis, Exec. V.P.,

for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce



City of Cambridge

7.

IN CITY COUNCIL

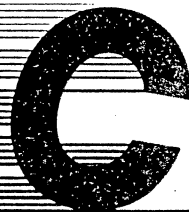
June 4, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH

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Sincerely,



R. D. Lewis, Exec. v.p.,

for the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce

Order #

S-596

Councillor Walsh re: concerns from the
Vice President of the Cambridge Chamber
of Commerce regarding the Traffic
Mitigation and Supply Restriction
Ordinance.

In City Council,

June 4, 1990

*Order adopted
as amended.*