



City of Cambridge

112.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 27, 1998

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

ORDERED: That the City Manager report to the Council about the new nighttime truck restrictions on Kirkland Street, specifically whether members of the Truck Committee were aware that application had been made for this, whether an alternate route had been specified in the application to the Massachusetts Highway Department for this restriction, whether any attempts had been made to study what effect these new restrictions would have on Cambridge Street, specifically whether the Kirkland Street restriction will cut down on through truck traffic or merely divert it to Cambridge Street; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager proceed with an application to the MHD to extend this restriction against nighttime through truck traffic to all streets in the City.

In City Council July 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Laura B. Roberts

112

1715 Cambridge Street
Cambridge MA 02138

July 23, 1998

Francis Duehy
Mayor
City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Mayor Duehy:

I have been a resident of Cambridge, living on the corner of Cambridge Street and Sumner Road, for 9 years. Over the last few years, increased truck traffic, starting as early at 4:00 a.m., has become a real problem for the street. I have seen the effect of the vibrations on my 150 year old, National Register home. So I was delighted when the police finally acknowledged residents' complaints and invited us to a community meeting to discuss mitigation and enforcement on Cambridge and Kirkland Streets.

You can imagine my dismay when I learned that evening that a night time truck ban had been enacted for Kirkland Street, effectively moving that traffic onto Cambridge Street. (An effect the police at the meeting denied would occur!) Up until that night I had *never* been informed of this pending city action, which has a direct and deleterious effect on my property and my well-being. Clearly, those responsible did not consider the effect a ban on one street would have on parallel roads. Also, I have to wonder if the city agencies responsible for the ban try to slip it by those of us who would feel the impact; to this day I have received no official word from the City, no notices of hearings, no opportunity to comment.

I understand that the City has been grappling with the truck issue for years and have read both reports from the ad hoc truck commission. It is therefore even more puzzling that you have taken this piecemeal approach, pitting one street against another. However, in that spirit, the residents of Cambridge Street have no choice but to petition for immediate relief. Ideally, you would suspend the Kirkland Street ban until Cambridge Street can be included in the prohibition. Alternatively, the City Council could commit to expediting a ban for Cambridge Street. Does this raise the specter of simply shifting the debate one block over, to Broadway? Yes, but you have begun that domino game by considering one road in isolation at the outset. We should not have to suffer for your poor planning.

I will be eager to hear your response. My office is in my home; you can reach me or my husband, Ed Belove, at the numbers below. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Laura B. Roberts

phone 617.492.5048
fax 617.491.3566
e-mail LRoberts@belove.com

Laura B. Roberts

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Cambridge MA 02138

July 23, 1998

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Mayor
City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
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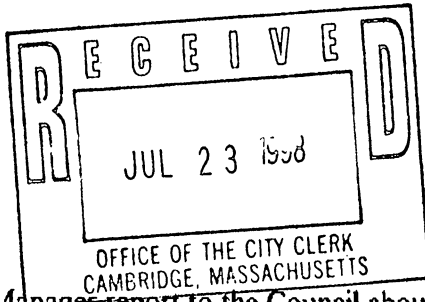
Sincerely,



Laura B. Roberts

phone 617.492.5048
fax 617.491.3566
e-mail LRoberts@belove.com

Kathy Born
Orders for July 27



✓
112

1. Ordered: That the City Manager report to the Council about the new nighttime truck restrictions on Kirkland Street, specifically whether members of the Truck Committee were aware that application had been made for this, whether an alternate route had been specified in the application to the Mass Highway Department for this restriction, whether any attempts had been made to study what effect these new restrictions would have on Cambridge Street, specifically whether the Kirkland Street restriction will cut down on through truck traffic or merely divert it to Cambridge Street, and be it further

Ordered: That the City Manager proceed with an application to the MHD to extend this restriction against nighttime through truck traffic to all streets in the city

✓
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2. Whereas: A 9 AM Wednesday spill from a truck of hazardous cargo in Harvard Square, the third such incident in recent months, indicates that there is an increasingly regular pattern of such accidents which may become even more frequent as more trucks choose Cambridge routes to avoid construction in Boston., therefore be it

Ordered: That the City Manager confer with the Police Commissioner to prepare a report to the council about all three of these incidents and any others like them which have occurred in the last year, including in the reports the origin and destination of the trucks, the owners, the circumstances and exact locations of the accidents, the type of material carried, and whether, given their origins and destinations, these trucks could have chosen an alternate route on limited access, non residential roadways like Rt. 93, 95 and the Mass Pike.

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3. Whereas: A recent serious accident involving a window falling out of the building on the corner of Oxford Street and Forest Street seriously injured a pedestrian

Whereas: A large piece of the concrete facade recently fell off a building at Mass Ave and Bow Streets, owned by the Harvard Coop and used by the Hong Kong Restaurant and

Whereas: A rash of similar incidents in New York City have sparked concerns over the dangers that poorly maintained buildings pose to pedestrians and those living in the neighborhoods of the buildings, therefore be it

Ordered: That the City Manager report to the council what steps were taken to contact the owners of these buildings, whether any fines or other disciplinary actions were initiated, and what steps those owners were required to take to correct safety hazards at those sites, and be it further

Ordered: That the City manager report to the council what procedures are in place such as inspections and regulations to insure that similar incidents which threaten the safety of all people in the city do not occur again.

July 23, 1998

MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR DAVIS

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to direct the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to report without delay why nighttime truck traffic on Kirkland Street has been diverted to Cambridge Street.



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IN CITY COUNCIL

July 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR BORN
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR DAVIS

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Consent Order #112

370 CM

Councillor Born, Mayor Duehay, Councillors
Russell and Davis re: file application
with the MHD to extend the restriction
against nighttime struck traffic through
all streets in the City.

In City Council July 27, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED