

P.R. Lowe
407A Broadway
Cambridge, 02138

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

November 28, 1983

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been told by another tenant in my building that a driveway may be put through the back of the property. I wish to voice my strong objection to this.

Between the back of our house and the side of the one on Dana St. There is only a narrow space, partially paved with bricks, and with a large drain in the middle. (It may even be a city drain.) If this is paved over for a driveway, the basement apartment where I live could easily become flooded and uninhabitable, especially since my large kitchen window, which would directly abut this driveway, begins right at ground level. Improper drainage could equally, if less rapidly, damage the building opposite.

Additionally, there would be a considerable amount of noise pollution from the engine sounds magnified in that small space between buildings. Most importantly, the inadequately diffused and noxious carbon monoxide fumes may easily build up in this narrow space opposite my kitchen window and that of my neighbors, constituting a serious and potentially dangerous health hazard for us.

What would this new owner do about snow removal from her driveway? The space is too narrow to leave snow to one side of her driveway; she'd have no place to dump it but in our yard or the yard next door, or on the public sidewalks and streets.

I also question the legality of this type of land usage in which a driveway would directly abut to different apartment buildings, neither of which have ownership or use of it. In fact, for the tenants of these buildings, there is only potential harm in it, not to mention a lot of esthetic displeasure. A large and handsome hedge which gives privacy and protection from the street would be removed to make way for this project.

There's reasonable street parking in this neighborhood. What this woman would actually be doing is taking away parking space from other people in the neighborhood by eliminating curb space to make room for her private driveway.

She may have succeeded in getting right-of-way through another person's property so easily only because that person cares nothing for his property except the money he hopes to sell it for, but this doesn't give her the right to endanger, seriously inconvenience, displace, break codes, or otherwise harass her neighbors.

Sincerely,

P.R. Lowe
P.R. Lowe

cc: City Council, City Solicitor

11.

H-202

Comm. from P.R. Lowe, 407A Broadway, in opposition to the petition of Ruth Hiller for a driveway at the side of 407A Broadway on Dana St.

In City Council,

December 5, 1983

12/5/83

Response

to

the

Petition -

(copy placed with Hiller petition
(12/7/83) mh