



City of Cambridge

Consent Communication #5

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 24, 1997

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation with a view in mind of placing "socks" over parking meters during street cleaning indicating no parking, as suggested in the attached communication.

In City Council March 24, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

March 19, 1997

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

To: Mayor Russell, Vice Mayor Born, Councillors Davis, Triantafyllou,
Reeves, Sullivan, Toomey, Duehay, Galluccio. CAMBRIDGE MA.

From: John Moot, 44 Coolidge Hill Road, Cambridge

Subject: **Towing Cars from Parking Meters during Street
Cleaning.**

On the radio recently I heard a commercial selling Austin, Texas to the residents of the Boston area. The main thrust of the message was that Austin, Texas is more friendly.

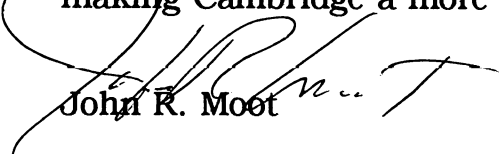
Just as we are designing a program to make Cambridge more beautiful, perhaps we should move to make the City more friendly.

One of the most unfriendly acts that the City performs is the towing of the cars of strangers that are parked at meters during street cleaning. It is totally unreasonable to expect that the person parking the car and putting quarters in the meter should look up to the sign that restricts parking during street cleaning one day a month.

The inconvenience to the owner of the car is, as everyone well knows, extreme. I witnessed one couple with a baby in diapers return after breakfast to where they had parked by a meter in Harvard Square only to learn the car had been towed. What a shock! Where do you go and what do you do to retrieve the car?

This very unfriendly, or might I say nasty, treatment of our visitor is entirely unnecessary. Socks can be put over the meters indicating no parking. These covers can be put on quickly and easily between 6 and 7 am. and removed once the cleaning has been done. Other cities do it. It would free up several police officers for other more important work, because there would be very few cars, if any, to tow. Placing the socks on the meters requires less personnel than it takes to write the tickets.

Other cities do it. Cambridge can and should. It will contribute to making Cambridge a more friendly city.


John R. Moot

cc: Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Harvard Square Business Assoc.

Consent Communication #5

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Communication was received from John Moot, 44 Coolidge Hill Road, transmitting his concern on towing cars from parking meters during street cleaning.

In City Council March 24, 1997

PLACED ON FILE

ORDER ADOPTED