



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
COMMISSION ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS

McCusker Center
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Tel. T.D.D. 498-9000, Ext. 9509

January 5, 1988

Mayor Alfred Vellucci
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mayor Vellucci,

The Cambridge Commission on Handicapped Persons is especially concerned about sidewalk mobility during the winter months. While a Snow Removal Ordinance exists, our efforts to investigate its enforcement have been discouraging; we have been informed that the ordinance is essentially unenforceable.

Nonetheless, sidewalk travel in winter months is definitely a necessary alternative to being homebound. The Commission therefore urges the City Council to examine the enforceability of the existing Snow Removal Ordinance, and to amend it as needed in order to make it work in Cambridge. We have learned that other cities with winters that are more severe than ours have effective Snow Removal Ordinances that might be useful models for Cambridge.

In the past, there have been efforts to engage residents in "adopting" a neighborhood fire hydrant to maintain snow-free during the winter months. The Commission commends these efforts and recommends that they be renewed this and every winter. We would also encourage the City Council to expand these efforts to include "adopting" curb ramps from which ice and snow are vigilantly removed. Such community participation, coupled with an enforceable Snow Removal Ordinance, promises to improve the safety of sidewalk travel for all Cambridge residents, and particularly for elderly, blind and mobility-impaired persons for whom winters are particularly difficult.

Thank you for your cooperation in making this winter and winters to come easier for our constituents.

Sincerely,

Gail Enman

Gail Enman, Director
Commission on Handicapped Persons

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Comm. from Gail Enman, Director, Cambridge
Commission on Handicapped Persons, expressing
concern for sidewalk mobility during the
winter months & urging the Council to examine
the enforceability of the existing Snow Removal
Ordinance.

In City Council,

January 25, 1988

Referred to the City
manager

Copy sent to the City manager's
office 1/27/88 mbe