



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration
Parking Violations
Resident Parking

349-4700
349-4705
349-4701

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

December 3, 1998

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Council Order #22 Dated November 2, 1998

RE: Report on the car accident at the corner of Third and Spring Streets and at the corner of Third and Binney Streets and report on implementation of traffic calming measures

On October 28th 1998 at approximately 5:45 in the afternoon there was an accident at the intersection of Third Street and Spring Street. The accident involved two drivers with one witness listed on the accident report. Vehicle #1 was on Spring St. which is a stopped street and Vehicle #2 was traveling North on Third Street with no traffic controls. Vehicle #1 passed through a line of vehicles heading South on Third Street and struck Vehicle #2 traveling North on Third Street and then went onto the sidewalk knocking down the Street Name sign and coming to a rest against the apartment building on the corner. Vehicle #1 was cited for not stopping for a Stop sign. Inspectional Services was called to check for structural damage to the building. They found that the vehicle went into the foundation and did cause damage which the owner had temporarily patched.

On November 2nd there was an accident at the intersection of Third and Binney streets. Vehicle #1 was heading easterly, taking a left onto Third street; Vehicle #2 was heading westerly on Binney street in the northern most lane. Both vehicles had a solid green signal indication. Vehicle #3 in the center lane of westbound Binney Street yielded to Vehicle #1, Vehicle #1 did not see Vehicle #2 and they collided within the intersection.

Through the City's Traffic Calming Program, Third Street, between the McGrath O'Brien Highway and Binney Street was redesigned in order to slow the traffic down and thereby increase safety to all users. These plans have been reviewed by the community at several meetings and their comments and suggestions have been incorporated in the plan. The project also includes full depth reconstruction of Third Street as well as the traffic calming

enhancements. The City will have the project out to bid in January with construction scheduled to begin in the Spring of 1999 at an estimated cost of \$880,000.00

In the planning process of the redesign, our accident information was but one piece of the base data that was used in developing the final design. The traffic calming plan for Third Street involves several changes that taken together will slow speeds along the whole street and therefore improve safety along the whole length of the street. The strength in Traffic Calming comes from the fact that you do not require a change at a particular intersection for that intersection to experience the increased safety of the design. By eliminating the straight shot for drivers, they naturally slow their speeds. Speed is a leading cause of accidents, when speeds are decreased, the time required to avoid a collision drops dramatically. This results in less severe collisions and/or no collision at all.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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13.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 25, 1999

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 9, regarding a report on the car accident at the corner of Third and Spring Streets and at the corner of Third and Binney Streets and a plan to implement traffic calming measures at an estimated cost of \$880,000.00, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Consent Agenda #13

S-538

Relative to AR #9 regarding
a report on the car accident at
the corner of Third and Spring Streets
and at the corner of Third and Binney and
a report on implementation of traffic
calming measures.

In City Council January 25, 1999

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