

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS**

**WATER DEPARTMENT
250 FRESH POND PARKWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138**

RECEIVED
95 MAY -8 PM 1:11
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

**617-349-4770
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**Michael A. Nicoloro, P.E.
Managing Director**

**SUBJECT: Council Consent Agenda #29 for 5/8/95 - "POSTING SIGNS ON
BLEEDING OF FIRE HYDRANTS" By Councillor Born**
DATE: MAY 8, 1995
FROM: MIKE NICOLORO *Mile*
TO: ROBERT HEALY

All water distribution systems similar in age to that of Cambridge are plagued with tuberculated water mains. The tuberculation, which is an accumulation of trace metals that build up in the main over the years, can create a public nuisance in the form of rusty-colored water- it does not present a health hazard to the public. This nuisance occurs whenever there is a disruption in the normal flow of water (i.e. hydrant flushing, street sweeping, firefighting, construction activities, shutdowns, etc.) in areas where there are tuberculated water mains. When there is a disruption, a flow reversal in the main occurs thus unseating the tuberculation and the water user may experience discolored water. In an effort to inform the public about planned events such as hydrant flushing, the CWD along with the Fire Department issues notice in the following ways:

- Publicizes notices in the Chronicle and the Tab.
- Broadcasts a notice on Cable TV.
- Posted on water/sewer bills (Commencing in June 95).
- Fire Department bullhorns the area prior to flushing.

With regard to signage, it is a good idea but it should be used as a last resort. Please note that we have 1,750 hydrants in the City and a fair amount of existing signage garnering the streets of Cambridge. I would like to suggest that we first attempt to reach the public in the form of a newsletter with this information. The CWD is very close in finalizing the format for a modest newsletter that would be issued on a quarterly basis. I believe the

newsletter approach coupled with routine visits to neighborhood group meetings would be the most effective way to educate the public about issues such as hydrant flushing.

However, if there is still a believe that signage is the answer we could pursue combining the hydrant flushing message with street sweeping. This would not require additional signs but it would require re-screening the signs. Please let me know if you require further assistance with this issue.

Thank You.

c r. rossi

file: a:\cwg\healross\hydsign

date: 5/7/95



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 22, 1995

To The Honorable, The City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 55, regarding the feasibility of informing residents in advance that fire hydrants will be "bled", please find attached a response from Michael Nicoloro, Managing Director of the Water Department.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 4 *S-181*

Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
Fifty-five regarding the feasibility
of informing residents in advance
that fire hydrants will be "bled".

*for Original Order see
Order # 29 of 5/8/95*

In City Council,

May 22, 1995

Placed on file