

993 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, Ma. 02138

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I am writing to you in the hope that you will give some consideration to a change in the policies concerning visitor's permits. I live in an area where permits are used daily, by commuters, Harvard employees and others who wish to park near Harvard Square and abuse of the permits is rampant. On weekdays, from 8:30 to 6:00, it is virtually impossible to find a parking spot within a half mile of my apartment, because at least 60% of the available spaces are taken by people with permits on their dashboards. In the summer, the figure is lower, because the College is in recess, but it still hovers around the 40-50% range.

A woman at the traffic bureau at 57 Inman Street told me that they recall an average of 150 permits a week, for blatant abuse. If this happens even forty weeks a year, then there are over four thousand permits that are recalled and many more than that who are not caught and who are allowed to park the entire year. It's not inconceivable to think that there are probably at least eight thousand people who can come to Cambridge and park with impunity.

The major problem with enforcement of the two-week rule is that the traffic wardens are rotated every few weeks to another of twenty-four different areas and are not around long enough to document the length of time that people park. Also, they don't return to the same area for another eighteen months, so there is no consistent enforcement.

What I would like to propose is a change in the basic permit.

One of the problems that contributes to the enormous number of permits that are available to all these commuters is that everyone with a registered car or anyone who can produce a telephone or a gas bill is handed two permits, to do with as they wish. The problem is that more often than not, what they wish to do is to sell them or give them away. What I propose is:

1. Allow each person one permit.
2. Design permits in such a way (as on mock permit "A" enclosed) that the address or at least the nearest street corner (e.g. "Ash Street and Memorial Drive") of the owner of the permit is visible.
3. Design permits in such a way as to keep track of the type of usage the permit has. This could be done by putting columns on the permit for people to fill in the dates of the "visits". If there were fifty or so places to fill in, daily commuters would fill these spaces up in two months and these cars would then use public transportation. (As on mock permit "B")

There are several reasons that I feel so strongly about the unfairness of the present system which seems to encourage people from the suburbs and other areas to pour into our neighborhoods, causing great hardship for those of us who would like to lead lives without any extra hassle than there already is. One of these reasons is that I am a nurse who works often until midnight and then again at seven in the morning. When I return back home at four o'clock, there is nowhere to park because of these permit holders. However, for me, the last straw was last fall when my daughter had four

wisdom teeth removed and when I brought her home, we drove around for twenty minutes with no luck in finding a place to park. Finally, because she was so miserable, I illegally parked, rushed her inside and finally found a place to park a fifteen minute walk away. On the way back, I counted twenty-five faded permits and have been trying, to no avail, to try to make this problem better.

I would appreciate any consideration that you may give to this issue.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Puckett

VISITOR
1986

Residential
Parking perm
Area

City of Cambridge
Department of Traffic + Parking

Permit N 61840

Expires December 31, 1986

Permit issued by George Teso

Address where visiting:

or name of person



Jan 1	Feb 23
Jan 5	Feb 24
Jan 10	Feb 25
Jan 21	Mar 6
Feb 1	Mar 8
Feb 3	Mar 15
Feb 5	Mar 20
Feb 10	Mar 20
Feb 15	Mar 24
Feb 17	Mar 1
Feb 20	Apr 2
Feb 21	

B

1986

City of Cambridge

Visitor Permit

#61840

Expires December 31, 1986

Permit issued by George Teso

Residential Parking





City of Cambridge

7.

COUNCILLOR WOLF

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 30, 1986

- WHEREAS: The City Council has received the attached letter concerning abuses in the use of parking permits and the resultant inconvenience to Cambridge residents; therefore, be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager is hereby requested to have these allegations reviewed and corrective measures taken immediately; and be it further
- ORDERED: That he be requested to have the Traffic Director review the suggestions for parking permit format to determine whether some other format would prevent future abuse.

In City Council June 30, 1986.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph E. Connarton".

Joseph E. Connarton, Acting City Clerk.

Order #7

P-273

C. Wolf order re: City Manager to have the
Traffic Director review suggestions for park-
ing permit format to determine whether some
other format would prevent future abuse.

In City Council,

June 30, 1986

C. Wolf
u/v
S