

June 18, 2002

To: Cambridge City Council

The Agassiz neighborhood has endured repeated street flooding for many years. This flooding causes significant disruption and damage to homes and automobiles, plus a public health risk due to the sanitary sewage content of the floodwater. After the flood of June 13, 1998, the City undertook a redesign of the area's storm water capacity, in connection with the separation of storm and sanitary sewers. At that time, we were led to believe that this work would alleviate the flooding problems. In the years since, we have lived through considerable inconvenience during construction of the new pipes, pumps, and storage tanks under our streets.

For some area residents, the Crescent/Carver/Area 13 construction project, plus regular sewer cleaning and maintenance, has led to improvements in drainage. However, for others, there has been minimal improvement. Most recently, on June 20, 2001 and May 29, 2002, storm water rose above the curbs on Sacramento Place, in the Crescent-Carver area, and at the lower end of Sacramento Street. Water filled many streets, and in at least one location overflowed on the sidewalk to a depth of 6 inches. Some residents reported water in their basements. Manholes bubbled over, and raw sewage rose from the catch basins; the sludge left behind when the flood receded was so foul that it should have been washed down with disinfectant. On both these dates, the flooding occurred after less than a hour of heavy rain. Thus despite all the construction, problems remain that require the Departments of Public Works and Public Health's active monitoring and intervention, until residents' needs have been met.

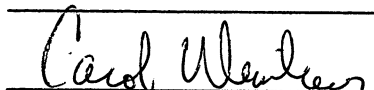
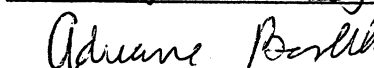
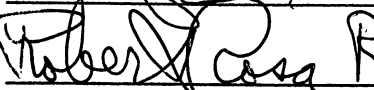
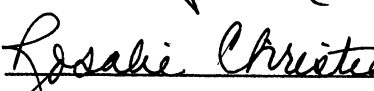
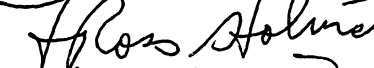
We respectfully request that the Council direct the City Manager to investigate all the causes of our continued flooding, to inform us of the results of that investigation, and to let us know when we can expect relief from this very serious problem.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Signature

Name

Address

	Carol Weinhaus	64 Oxford St #14
	Adriane Borkko	1619 Mass Ave #37
	Daniel Gilden	37 Gorham St.
	Robert Rosa	44 Sacramento St
	Rosalie Christiana	1619 Mass Ave #24
	Michael Schindlinger	23 Sacramento Pl. M. Schindlinger
	Floss Holmstrom	66 Sacramento St.
	Amelia Rachel Cohn	37 Gorham St

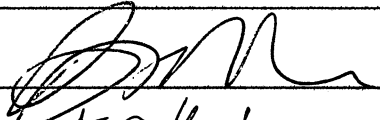
William & Rhonda 1619 Mass Ave St

Additional signers of 6/18/02 letter to City Council re Agassiz flooding:

Richard Silver 56 Hammond St.

Carol Weinberg 64 Oxford St. #14

Adriano Besilio 1619 Mass Ave

 60 Wendell Street, #3

J. Pellet 60 Wendell Street #3

J. Arneel 1607 Mass Ave.

 1611 Mass Ave.

Lydia V. Enos 11 Sacramento St.

Lydia V. Enos 11 Sacramento St.

G. R. R. R. 50 Sacramento St.

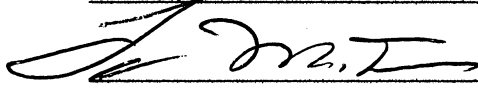
Thomas Frank Thomas Frank 53 Crescent St.

Kate Summey Frank Kate Summey Frank 53 Crescent St.

Helen Lambert

Helen Lambert

25 Sacramento St

 TAMAR MILLER 63 SACRAMENTO

June 18, 2002

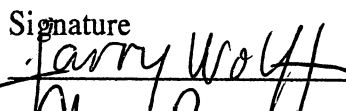
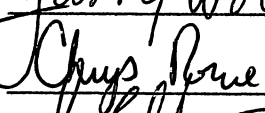
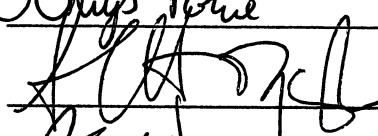
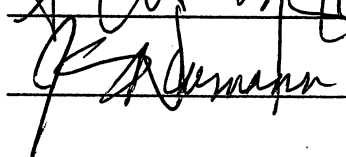
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Signature	Name	Address
	Larry Wolff	22 Sacramento Place
	Chrys Rowe	25 Sacramento St
	Ann C. Hagstadius	19 Sacramento Place
	JOHN S. NEWMAN	3 SACRAMENTO PL

617 547-5174

5

June 21, 2002

Dear Cambridge City Council Members:

Attached is a letter of concern about continued flooding in the Agassiz area. This flooding was discussed at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting on June 18, 2002. Most of the signers of the letter were people who attended this meeting. There was consensus among signers that flooding, even in parts of the neighborhood, should remain a concern of everyone. Such flooding continues to threaten residents, homes, cars, pedestrians, and drivers.

We request that the City Council arrange for a coordinated approach to analyze and ameliorate these flooding conditions. We also request that we be informed as to the causes and proposed solutions of this continuing problem. We think the flooding on May 29, 2002 is a test of the upgraded system to date and is a warning that highlights important trouble spots. We trust that these "red flags" will be used constructively by the city to affect long-term plans for our area. Furthermore, we implore you to consider short-term and interim measures and to reconsider the timing of the delayed work on Oxford Street.

Coincidentally, the main agenda item of the Agassiz Neighborhood Council meeting on June 18 was a presentation by the Agassiz Committee on the Impact of Development, summarizing Harvard's plans for development in our area over the next 15 years. That presentation, and the ensuing discussion, only heightened our concerns: surely the new construction by Harvard--especially in its totality--will exacerbate existing storm water and sewer problems.

The issues mentioned above clearly require the expertise and wisdom of key people in the Departments of Public Works, Public Health, and Community Development. We look forward to a coordinated and comprehensive report on the causes of and proposed remedies for the unresolved flooding problems in the Agassiz area.

Thank you for your help in addressing our concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Kate Frank

Kate Frank, Block Captain, Crescent/Carver Area
53 Crescent Street, Cambridge

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom, 66 Sacramento Street, Cambridge

2002 JUL 17 P 4: 36
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

S-2310

S-231

Consent Communication #5

A communication was received
from Kate Frank and Lynda Lytle
Holmstrom, regarding continued
flooding in the Agassiz area.

In City Council July 29, 2002

PLACED ON FILE.