

*received at meeting of
6/20/94*

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

Dear Council,

I am writing to you regarding the reconstruction of Elmer street. This work has been almost equivalent to building a completely new street. The road surface and sub surface are being dug up and replaced. The sidewalks have been removed, new curbstones laid, and new sidewalks poured. The gas main was replaced, and a new drainage system installed.

The project has been mostly satisfactory; the work was sorely needed. One aspect is unfortunately quite unsatisfactory. Before the work, there was a sidewalk on only one side of the street. This was fine, the street is very quiet, almost everyone just walks down the middle of the street. As part of the work, a second concrete sidewalk has been installed along the other side of the street. The project engineer, Abdul Alkhatib, reassured several residents along the street that this additional sidewalk would not impact our parking.

Our neighborhood has an impossible parking situation as it is. I know that parking is tough all around Cambridge, but it is particularly bad here. Before the street reconstruction, Elmer street had only four spots for a street with well over 30 units of housing in six buildings. Now it turns out that we will lose all four spots that we had before construction. I do not want this new sidewalk, and I don't think there is anyone who is planning on using it.

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We, the residents were never consulted about what would be good for our neighborhood in regards to this work. Now we will have a wide, barren, one way street without parking. The City has spent time and money installing a sidewalk which the neighborhood does not want. I would like at least the section of sidewalk that is blocking our parking removed.

Sincerely,

Boris Finecler
9 Elmer St. #1

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,



R. PRABHAKAR,
23, ELMER ST. Apt 2.
CAMB. MA 02138
497-4568

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,

 Ian Boardman

7 ELMER ST.
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,

Sondra King

7 Elmer St

Apt 1

Cambridge Ma

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,

Judith Francis
7 Hingham St., Cambridge

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,

Laura Henry
9 Hingham St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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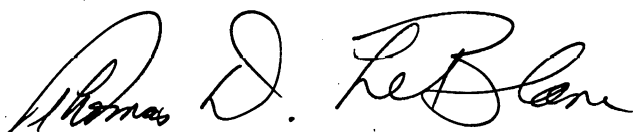
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Sincerely,



23 ELMER ST. APT. 1
491-9691

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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29 Elmer St. Cambridge, MA 02138

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,

Eugene Kroz
9 Elmer #F

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

June 19, 1994

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Sincerely,



Robert De Barge
5 Elmer St. #1
Cambridge MA 02138

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge

Received at Rostrom
From Councillor Sullivan
on 6-20-94 June 19, 1994
@ 8:21 p.m.

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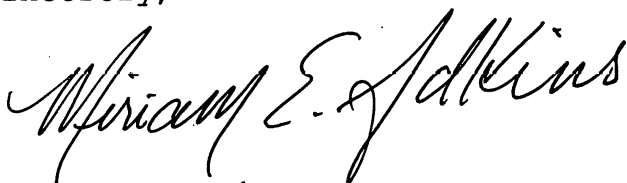
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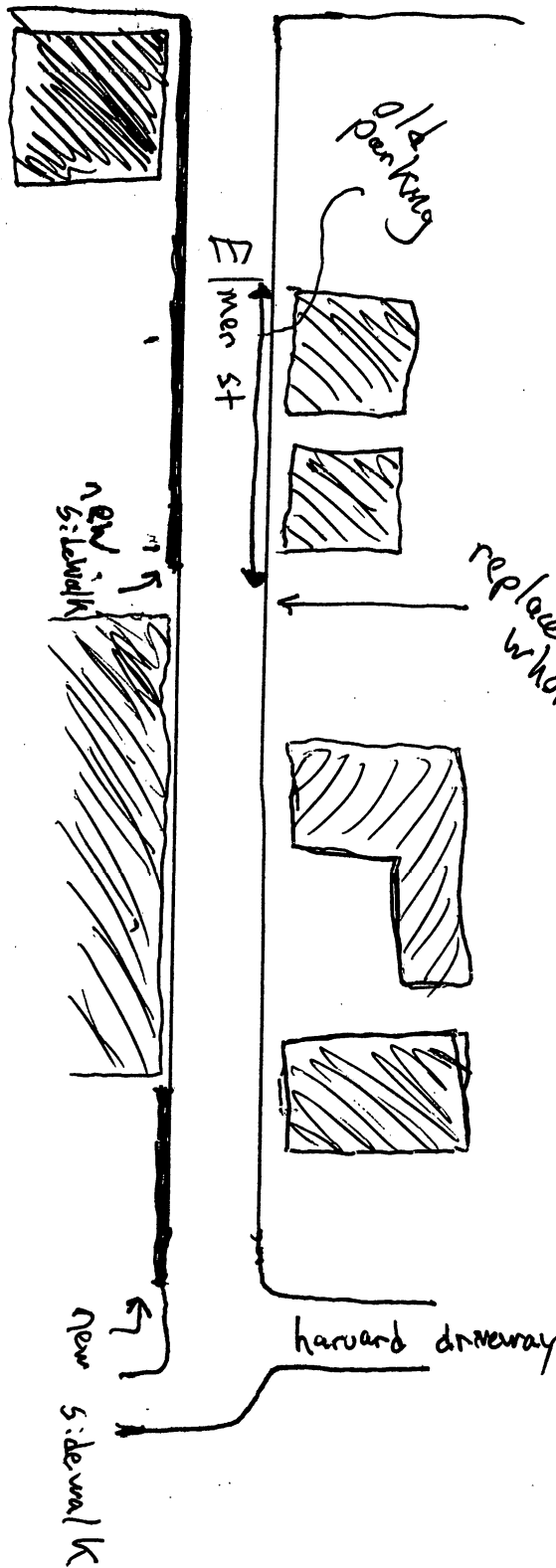
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Sincerely,



Miriam Adkins
5 Elmer St. #1
Cambridge MA 02138

Hingham st



replaced existing sidewalk,
whole length

harvard driveway

Ben Blout
11 Hingham Street
Cambridge

RECEIVED BY
CITY CLERK
1994 JUN 13 PM 4:36

June 13, 1994

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dear Council,

I am writing to you regarding the reconstruction of Elmer street. I have tried to work cooperatively with the Department of Public Works on this subject, but I have been unsuccessful.

I got involved in this issue when the curb stones were laid for a new sidewalk along the street (previously we had a sidewalk on only one side of the street). The project engineer, Abdul Alkhatib, had assured me, and others on the street, that the parking along the street would be preserved. When I saw how narrow the street would be, I called Abdul because I was sure a mistake had been made; he said things were fine. After many calls from me, he contacted the traffic department, and found that the street was in fact too narrow to allow parking, as a result of the new sidewalk.

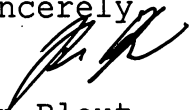
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I suggested to various people at the Department of Public Works that they simply not install the new sidewalk. I spoke to Commissioner Ralph Dunphy in mid-May, when the sidewalk was less than half completed. He said that the department always installed sidewalks down both sides of every street. The reasons he gave were: it is expected in a city, it is what the pedestrians want, it is what most people want. I told him that I thought our neighborhood wanted to NOT have a sidewalk on both sides of our street, and I would speak to my neighbors to make sure I was not the only one who cared about this situation. He promised to let me know well in advance of construction resuming on the street, so we could reach an "amicable solution" (his words) to this situation.

I was startled last Thursday when a crew showed up and completed laying the sidewalk. Since then I have spoken to ten residents (about one third, I think) of Elmer street. None of them were even aware that we were losing the parking along Elmer street. All of them would like to see the street without the new sidewalk. All of the residents also expressed an interest in signing a letter to that effect. I hope to have that signed letter in time for the next council meeting.

To Summarize, I, and all of the residents I have spoken to so far, do not understand why the city is putting in this new sidewalk. We feel it does not serve a need for our neighborhood, and in fact creates a problem. I would like the sidewalk (only about 70 feet) removed before the street is dug up and re-paved. I will have a letter to that effect for the council next week, signed by residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. Blout', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ben Blout

cc: Bob Healy

cc: Richard Rossi

Ben Blout
11 Hingham Street
Cambridge

June 13, 1994

Cambridge City Council
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
JUN 16 PM 2:52
CAMBRIDGE MA.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Blout".

Ben Blout

cc: Bob Healy

cc: Richard Rossi

Comm. from Ben Blout, 11 Hingham Street, *shae*
in opposition to the construction of a new
sidewalk on Elmer Street.

In City Council,

June 20, 1994

Placed on file

*Petitions signed by
residents received at
meeting of 6/20/94*

*Copy of entire petition
sent to City Manager
10/21/94 *EW**