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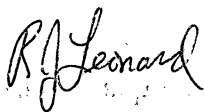
To the Cambridge City Council:

We live in a city, and it is to be expected that certain noises will be present in our environment. Even so, various individuals and groups know that an abundance of noise can affect our quality of life. Our ears are bombarded daily not only with the sounds of city maintenance and construction, but with the intrusive sounds of blaring auto alarms, pounding music from passing cars, and other noise created at all times of the day and night by unthinking or uncaring people. I believe that the City of Cambridge even has a noise commission which is working on hopefully reducing the decibel level.

Why then, has the city added to the cacophony by purchasing sidewalk sweeping machines that very loudly shriek, "Beep! Beep! Caution! Sweeper approaching! Caution! Sweeper approaching!" ? Obviously the intent is to warn pedestrians of the approaching sweeper, but I was not aware that there was a rash of pedestrian/sweeper collisions on the sidewalks of Cambridge! And if so, then why not equip all city garbage trucks, snow ploughs, etc. with similar audio warning devices? The people who blithely walk into sidewalk sweepers would probably benefit from these as well. The volume on these audio-warning machines is atrocious. You can hear them coming from half a mile away.

Is this necessary? Is this sane? Why introduce yet another loud, unnecessary noise into the environment? Is there no escape? I heard this machine all last week as I sat in my office in Harvard Square, and today I heard it on a Saturday morning at home, as I sat by an open window enjoying the relative calm of the early morning! And if enough people complain about this, will the city get rid of the stupid audio-things, or will it form another task force to study the "problem"?

Sincerely,



Robert J. Leonard

Consent Communication # 20

5-296

A communicatin was received from Robert J. Leonard, transmitting a letter of concern regarding the very loud noises emanating from the city sidewalk sweeping machines.

In Ciy Council April 27, 1998

Referred to the City Manager