



City of Cambridge Police Department



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Office of the Chief of Police

HEADQUARTERS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

September 17, 1981

Mr. Robert Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

In answer to City Council Order # 17 (Councillor Crane) and City Council Order # 18 (Councillor Walter Sullivan) dated September 14, 1981 re: School Crossing Guards, due to budget constraints imposed by Proposition 2½, the Police Department eliminated fourteen (14) traffic supervisor positions. This left the Department with a total work force in this area of 48 instead of the 57 plus five (5) alternates that we had for the 1980-81 school year.

In an attempt to minimize the problems created by this situation, the Department carried out what we felt was a planned, logical decision making process to determine which crossings would be eliminated, which would be covered by police officers and which would be covered by traffic supervisors. Our top priority was to utilize the present crossing guards to the fullest extent possible. To accomplish this, we assigned them to the earliest crossings, those where the children begin crossing early in the morning (because of the breakfast program). This had the double advantage of having a guard at those crossings that were utilized by the greatest number of children and not having to assign police officers to crossings where they would have to spend a lot of time off the air.

The next step in our decision making process was to analyze four (4) variables concerning school crossings. Those four (4) were:

1. the number of children using a crossing (we conducted a survey);

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2. school closing;
3. busing;
4. school district boundaries.

The final decisions on which crossings to eliminate were based on this analysis. Specific examples of this follow:

1. the crossing at Sherman Street was eliminated because all children were bused from Walden Square to school.
2. the intersection of Aberdeen and Huron represents a school district boundary. Children living on one side of Aberdeen attend the Haggerty School, those living on the other side attend the Tobin School. Therefore, there should not be a need to cross Aberdeen Avenue and the upper grades of the Haggerty School are bussed to the Tobin School.
3. Because of the closing of the Lincoln School, a crossing supervisor was not needed at Walden and Mead Streets and our survey showed only two (2) children crossed at Walden and Massachusetts Avenue which has a pedestrian light.
4. A police officer was assigned to the crossing at Massachusetts Avenue and Hollis Street because our survey indicated that all crossings there took place between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. which meant that the officer would not be away from his/her foot patrol duties for very long. As we stated earlier, we wanted to utilize the traffic supervisors at those crossings where the demand, both in terms of volume and time, was the greatest.

In summary, we feel that the decisions that have been made are the most appropriate for the following reasons:

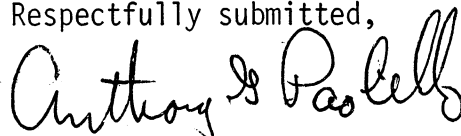
1. No patrol cars are taken off the air at any time to cover crossings;
2. Only six (6) crossings in the entire city have been eliminated and all of these were for what we feel are logical reasons, as stated above.

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3. Both the remaining crossing guards and foot patrol officers are being utilized in the most efficient manner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anthony G. Paolillo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Anthony G. Paolillo
Acting Chief of Police

AGP:smp

cc: Councillor Kevin Crane
Councillor Walter Sullivan



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

September 21, 1981

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Items No. 18 and No. 19,
enclosed please find copy of a communication from Acting Chief
Anthony G. Paolillo relative to school crossing guards.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item # 10

5-471

Comm. from Acting Chief Anthony G.
Paolillo in reference to Awaiting Report
Items No. 18 and 19 re: school crossing
guards.

In City Council,

September 21, 1981

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