



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

**To** Robert Healy, City Manager  
*George Teso*  
**From** George Teso, Traffic Director

**Date** May 6, 1986

**Reference**

**Subject** In reference to City Council Order #3 of April 28, 1986 "Traffic Lights"

I have made an investigation into reasons why traffic lights at certain intersections were flashing and unless I have a specific location I cannot comment on the specific reason.

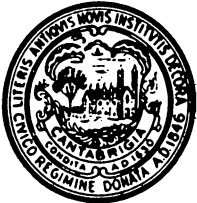
The traffic signals are maintained by a private contractor as a result of competitive bidding every year. Included in this contract is a section that requires that all trouble calls be answered within two hours from the time of the call. I have checked with the Police Department and the traffic signal company and only one call was received on the weekend you mentioned and that was at the intersection of Broadway, Portland Street and Hampshire Street. This call was answered and they found that a surge of power had blown out the relays and circuit breakers which required two days to repair. The reason it took so long is that it is an old type controller that is not manufactured anymore and is one of the controllers that will be replaced this summer.

Any other intersection that was flashing had to be put on flash by hand and what we have been finding is that many police officers will put traffic lights on flash for one reason or another and forget to put them back in operation.

I have met with the police chief on this matter and he will inform his men to make sure that the signals are working when they leave the intersection.

I am also making a check of the past 16 weekends to see what kind of calls were made and what kind of response time we received as every call and repair is documented as to date, time and type of repairs. If I find any cases of negligence I certainly will take whatever action necessary to insure that the contractor meets his obligations of the contract.

GT:rd



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI  
Deputy City Manager

May 19, 1986

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 20 regarding the maintenance of traffic lights throughout the City, I submit the attached report from George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 2 S-367

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 20  
on the maintenance of traffic lights through-  
out the City.

In City Council,

May 19, 1986

*Placed on file*