

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Traffic, Parking and Transportation
57 Inman Street,
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Susan E. Clippinger
Director

Administration
Parking Violations
Resident Parking

RECEIVED
97 DEC 15 PM 2:11
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
349-4700
349-4705
349-4701

December 9, 1997

TO: Robert Healy, City Manager

FROM: Susan E. Clippinger, Director *SEC*

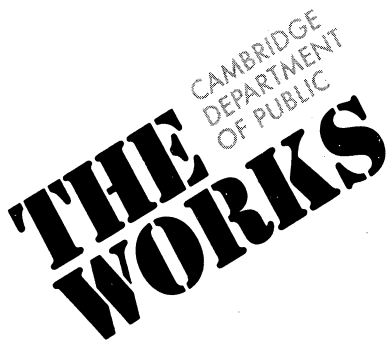
SUBJECT: Council Order #26 dated 11/24/97

RE: Report on a petition received concerning problems of noise, trash and litter, improper tree maintenance and traffic in the City.

With the completion of the Central Square improvements, we doubled the normal enforcement along Mass. Ave. for the period of September 11 through October 6. In response to business complaints about tagging of their delivery trucks, we also added a loading zone for the south side of Mass. Ave. near Au Bon Pain. During this period the increased enforcement was focused on Mass. Ave.

Since then, the Department continues to maintain a strong presence in Central Square. We have designed a new parking enforcement route that insures aggressive ticketing between the hours of 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m. The new route covers just Mass. Ave. from Columbia and Sidney Streets to Sellers and Bigelow Streets. The old Central Square route includes Bishop Allen, Green and the five Central Square lots, but now excludes Mass. Ave. The Parking Control Officers and Cambridge Police Department Officers assigned to that area have been ticketing vehicles that are illegally parked in bike lanes for double parking violations. If vehicles, in any way, are blocking the bike lanes, they are being ticketed. We have developed a relationship with the taxi operators who frequent Central Square and they are aware of our enforcement efforts. Vehicles making deliveries are not given considerations if they are illegally parked. Since September, we have experienced a decrease in the number of illegally parked vehicles.

The Department has also increased its enforcement in the blocks just off Mass. Ave. This includes enforcement of both metered parking and resident permit parking. The increased enforcement is reducing the Post Office and other area employees illegally parked. The Department is monitoring ticket issuance along Mass. Ave. and the adjacent streets to make sure the regulations are effectively enforced.

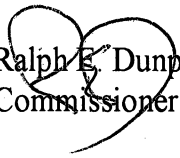


Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

RECEIVED
97 DEC 17 PM 2:50
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From:  Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

Date: December 17, 1997

Subject: **Council Order # 026, dated 11/24/97**
Re: Report on Petition Received Concerning
Problems of Noise, Trash & Litter,
Improper Tree Maintenance and Traffic
in the City

2. Trash – Central Square Area

The Department of Public Works is committed to keeping Central Square clean. To this end, the Department has embarked on a vigorous campaign of informing the public of their responsibilities in maintaining Central Square.

- a) The correct amount of trash receptacles is a difficult issue, in that, the amount directly effects the aesthetics of the urban design. The Department is monitoring location and usage and will make the necessary adjustments.
- b) The litter receptacles are emptied in the Square twice a day Monday – Friday and three times day on weekends. These receptacles are closely monitored between pick-ups as well.
- d) The idea of a litter-free Central Square ad campaign has been bantered about for quite some time. The Department will evaluate this concept for a Spring of 1998 kickoff.
- e) The Department of Public Works will contact the School Department requesting a segment of time in an appropriate course be set aside to instruct students in their responsibilities in this City.
- f) The Departmental staff has visited the fast food establishments in Central Square. They have been instructed in their responsibilities in keeping the Square clean. Property owners do have the ability to request trash receptacles for their own stores.



- g) The DPW has an Enforcement Division that deals with littering, rubbish and illegal posters. Clearly, the Department will continue to enforce all City Ordinances that impact quality of life issues in the City.

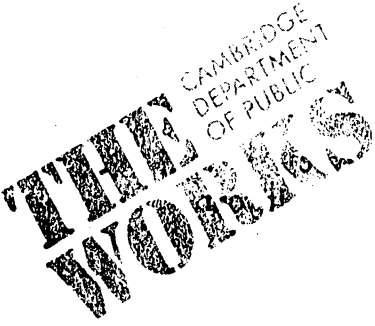
In summary, the Department will do whatever it takes to keep Central Square clean. I am enclosing a sampling of correspondences that we have recently sent to property owners and others concerning our expectations of a clean Cambridge.

3. City Trees

- a) Young trees require watering, mulching and pruning on a seasonal basis. We will create a young tree care route throughout the City as part of a comprehensive scheduled tree maintenance program or CSTM. Council Order # 023, dated 10/2/97 and the attached proposal addresses the issue of scheduled maintenance.

As to protection from vandalism, unfortunately young trees are vulnerable and there is little that can be done. Tree guards will not stop vandals from ripping limbs from trees. Tree grates are ornamental or provided to allow safe pedestrian access in narrow sidewalks. For tree health and pedestrian safety, we will provide regular maintenance of tree wells, free of weeds and trash, mulched and of a minimum 20 sq. ft. size. The City contracts specify the tree well size.

- b) Mature trees need pruning every 4-5 years. If properly done, tree pruning improves the health, safety and looks of trees. With approximately 12,000 street trees, this means pruning 8-12 trees per day. This is a goal of our CSTM program.
- c) All of our "client trees" are watered by citizens who purchase them. We are producing a door hanger and mailers to encourage other citizens to water City planted trees in front of their homes.



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

December 11, 1997

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

Dear

As part of the City's ongoing effort to make Central Square a better and cleaner place for businesses and residents, I've recently visited Central Square businesses to discuss trash and litter issues. The City has invested in significant improvements in Central Square, and the Department of Public Works has made a commitment to keep the Square clean.

In order to accomplish this, a collaborative effort is needed. It is part of DPW's job to help you maintain the image of Central Square as an attractive and safe place to work, shop, and live. Therefore:

- If you see graffiti, call DPW at 349-INFO and we will take care of it.
- If handbills are posted in a public area, call DPW at 349-4810 and we will remove them. Please note it is illegal to post handbills on public property.
- If you see a street light that is out, please call us at 349-4806 and we will see that it is properly reported.

For your part, we ask you to please:

- Sweep the sidewalk in front of your store at least once a day. We sweep every morning, so it is up to you to keep your part of Central Square clean.

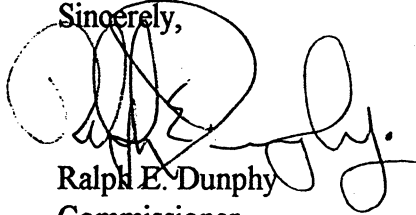
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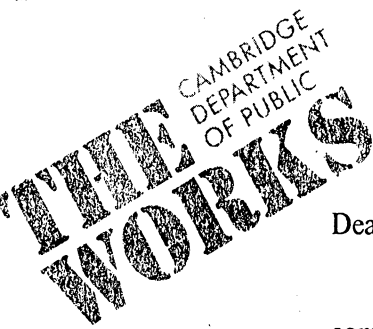


- If you have a public litter receptacle in front of your business, please remember it has been placed there for the convenience of passers by. If your business would like to add more receptacles, please call us at 349-4806 for information and authorization.
- If you put rubbish out in front of your store on Massachusetts Avenue, please put it out as close to pick-up time as possible so it does not become an eyesore on the sidewalk. Rubbish is not only unsightly, but can also be a public health hazard and an impediment to pedestrians.

Together we can make Central Square a more beautiful and vibrant business center. Let's all take responsibility for the Square.

If you have questions about any aspect of maintenance and upkeep in Central Square, please feel free to call me at 349-4806.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner



November 6, 1997

Dear Business Proprietor:

The four million dollars of improvements to Central Square are complete. To everyone's benefit, major changes have been made to the pedestrian areas in Central Square. The widening of sidewalks, installation of public seating facilities, additional lighting, beautification efforts and the use of sidewalks by businesses in the Square are but a few of the improvements being enjoyed by all.

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

This will be our first winter with all the improvements in place. Business owners and property owners are reminded of their obligation and responsibility to keep snow cleared from their walkways.

Public Works will be making extra efforts this year to clear snow from the public park areas, parking lots and crosswalks as a commitment to work with the property owners to keep Central Square safe for business and pedestrian use

City Ordinance 12.16.110 requires that the owner or occupant of private property that borders a sidewalk, clear snow from the sidewalk within twelve hours after snow ceases to fall in the daytime, and before 1 P.M. after a snowfall during the evening.

In addition, all ice must be removed from the sidewalk or covered with salt, sand or other suitable substance, by the owner or occupant within six hours after the sidewalk becomes covered with ice.

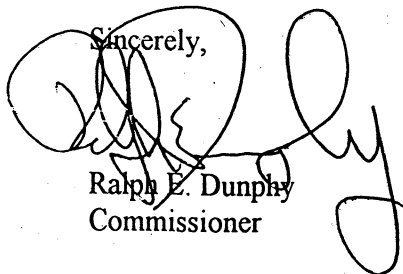
This ordinance was passed by the City of Cambridge and is enforced by the Cambridge Department of Public Works to insure the health and safety of all the residents of the City.

Please make every effort to comply with this Ordinance in the interest of public safety. Failure to comply will result in a warning for the first violation and a twenty-five dollar ticket for the second violation.

The Department has established a Snow/Ice Hotline which will allow citizens to call with specific locations of sidewalks that have not been shoveled or treated. The Snow/Ice Hotline will be available to accept calls 24 hours a day. The number is 349-4903.

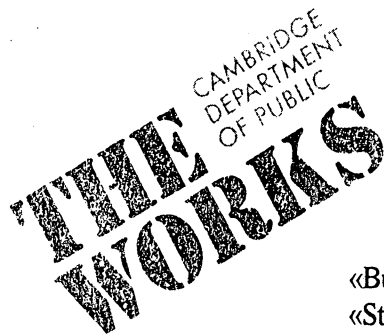
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner





«Business»
«Street Address»
Cambridge, MA 02139

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

September 24, 1997

Dear Business Proprietor

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

Recent inspections by City personnel show that a great deal of litter has been accumulating on your property located at «Street Address». This litter appears to be generated by your business, and remains for extended periods of time.

According to Cambridge City Ordinance 8.24.040.B.1:

"Every owner or occupant of private property bordering on a street where there is a public or private sidewalk or footway shall maintain such sidewalk or footway and the adjoining gutter to the center of the street free of litter."

A copy of the City's litter ordinance is enclosed.

Litter in the area is a public health problem. It is also unsightly and affects the public's perception of your business and of the businesses and homes of your neighbors.

The Department of Public Works staff is ready to assist you in developing a maintenance plan that will bring you into compliance with City of Cambridge regulations and, just as important, will satisfy the citizens of Cambridge.

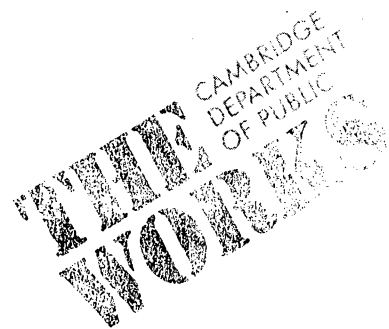
Please contact my office at 349-4806 by October 3, 1997 to schedule a meeting to discuss your maintenance plan. And please immediately address the litter in front of your business to ensure it is removed regularly. Your failure to comply with this City ordinance will result in formal citations with monetary penalties.

Thank you for helping to keep Central Square clean. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner





Did You Know...?

If you're the owner or operator of a commercial establishment...

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-4800
TDD 617-349-4805

You are required to keep all trash and garbage in authorized containers between and on collection days? This means a container constructed, preferably, of heavy plastic or metal, with a tight fitting cover. Containers must be rodent proof, insect proof, nonflammable and waterproof.

All rubbish containers at commercial establishments must be kept on private property at all times, and not on the public street or sidewalk.

You must arrange for adequate and regular collection of your trash and garbage.

You must keep your property free of litter. Also, you are responsible for keeping the sidewalk in front of your business, and the gutter out to the center of the street, free of litter. You may not sweep litter from your property, or from the sidewalk, into the gutter or street. Litter should be swept up, placed in containers, and disposed of with your rubbish.

You, your employees, and your patrons may not place trash from your business in public receptacles. However, you may place authorized receptacles on your property, or on the adjoining sidewalk, for the convenience of customers and other pedestrians.

And did you know...

The Cambridge Department of Public Works wants to help you to develop a management plan for your rubbish and litter that will help us all make Central Square an attractive place for businesses and residents alike! For more information, call 349-4806.





CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., 1ST FLOOR, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 349-6140

BENJAMIN C. BARNES
Chairman

CHIEF KEVIN J. FITZGERALD
Fire Department
Commission Member

RECEIVED
JAN 17 1998
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CAPTAIN HENRY W. BREEN
Police Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI
Commission Executive Officer

Date: December 15, 1997

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Fr: Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer

Re: Council Order #026, dated 11/24/97 Report on a Petition Received Concerning Problems of Noise, Trash, and Litter, Improper Tree-Maintenance, and Traffic in the City.

The License Commission has received the above council order.

The Commission does not have jurisdiction over most of the categories listed in the letter and petition, except for the noise issues.

Paragraph number 1 suggests that there are noise issues at Magazine Beach with bongo drums and sound systems. Although Magazine Beach is the property of the MDC, we could have Ms. Boyer, from our office investigate the noise issues and contact the MDC. She will have to contact one of the complainants and find out more information as to the days and times of the noise. Since it is now the winter, we assume that this noise is not an issue until the spring at which time Ms. Boyer will investigate the noise problems. She will contact the complainants now for future investigations.

Although we will investigate these complaints, in the past, bongo drums in public places, not for a fee, have been a problem, particularly in the Henry Street, Chestnut Street area. The issues have been First Amendments rights and people being able to commune with nature. The noise ordinance does state that it is a automatic noise violation if a musical instrument can be plainly audible from 50 feet away from the building, structure or dwelling unit, in which it is located. Here we have an instrument outside, where sound readings may not be found to be in violation and may be allowed under First Amendment rights.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

cc: Benjamin Barnes, Chairman; Ralph Dunphy, Public Works Commissioner; Susan Clippenger, Traffic Director; Ronnie Watson, Police Commissioner; Andrea Boyer, Chief Investigator



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



J.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

December 22, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 27, regarding a report on a petition received concerning problems of noise, trash and litter, improper tree-maintenance and traffic in the City, received from Traffic, Parking & Transportation Director Susan Clippinger, Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphy and Executive Officer of the License Commission Richard Scali.

Please note: The Traffic, Parking & Transportation report is also a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 20, regarding a report on long-term parkers in Central Square taking up short-term parking spaces.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachments

Consent Agenda #8

S-786

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number Twenty-seven, regarding a report on a petition received concerning problems of noise, trash and litter, improper tree-maintenance and traffic in the City and Awaiting Report Item Number Twenty, regarding a report on long-term parkers in Central Square taking up short-term parking spaces.

In City Council December 22, 1997

PLACED ON FILE