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January 15, 1977

Dana DeFuria
15 Hunting Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02141

Members of the Cambridge City Council
Claims Division:

On the morning of January 10, 1977 a vehicle owned by Dana DeFuria of 15 Hunting Street, Cambridge was involved in a hit and run accident on Hunting Street. The vehicle that hit Dana's 1974 Chevrolet Van was a City of Cambridge D.P.W. truck. A neighbor who witnessed the collision, Mrs. McGrath who lives at 10 Hunting Street, Cambridge described the truck as being an Orange D.P.W. truck with the #4 on the body of the truck.

Dana was parked on the right hand side of Hunting Street coming up Hunting Street from South Street, Somerville where he had parked Sunday evening January 9, 1977.

Monday morning somewhere between 9:00 A.M. and 9:45 A.M. a neighbor Mr. LaRoche who lives at 13 Hunting Street rang our doorbell to inform Dana that his Van had been struck by a City truck that was snow plowing.

Before going outside to inspect his Van Dana called the Cambridge Police Department and reported a hit and run accident to his Van.

Dana then went outside to look at his Van when another neighbor Mrs. McGrath who lives at 10 Hunting Street, Cambridge, told Dana she had witnessed the accident.

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Mrs. McGrath stated that she was in the house at the time of the accident and she saw Mr. LaRoche outside so she asked him to relay the message to Dana from her.

Dana then proceeded to his Van and found the snow plow had hit the left side of his Van. Mrs. McGrath also told Dana the Orange City of Cambridge truck was plowing on Cambridge Street and when it turned onto Hunting Street the plow hit Dana's Van. Mrs. McGrath further stated at the time she was unable to get the registration of the truck because it was covered with snow. She also said there was a number #4 on the body of the truck but the first number preceeding the #4 was either a #1 or #9 but she wasn't sure as the first number was also covered with snow. Dana thanked Mrs. McGrath and then waited for the Cambridge Police to arrive.

Within a very short time the Cambridge Police Accident Investigation Van arrived and took the report. Mrs. McGrath signed the report as a witness. The Police said they would investigate the report and Dana would hear from them as to what their investigation showed.

I Dana's mother Doris DeFuria, went shopping and purchased several large items that I was unable to carry home as it had now stopped snowing and was raining very hard so I phoned Dana and asked him to please come to where I was and drive me home which he did. It was now somewhere between 11:00 A.M. and 11:45A.M.

On our arrival back to Hunting Street about 11:50A.M. an Orange D.P.W. truck #94 was parked on the corner of Cambridge Street and Hunting Street. The driver of this vehicle was sitting in the truck and the other gentleman was shoveling sand on the icy spots of Cambridge Street.

Dana went over to the driver and asked him if he had been plowing snow in this area earlier in the day and the driver said yes. Dana then asked him if he recalled hit his Van and the driver said he didn't know if he had or not as the roads were very icy and he was slipping and sliding all over the place.

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My son told me what the driver had said and then I Doris DeFuria went over and spoke with the driver and I told him it was important that we know who was responsible for the damages and he said he really didn't know if he had hit the Van and again stated to me that the roads were so slippery he didn't know if he had hit anything. The driver of this vehicle was a heavy set gentleman with grey hair and possibly between 50 and 60 years old.

Dana and I then returned home. Needless to to say Dana was upset about the damage to his Van as he has put many hard hours of work into fixing the interior.

As far as I can recall the next morning January 11, 1977 Sgt. Rossi of the Cambridge Police phoned and I talked with Sgt. Rossi before Dana did and Sgt. Rossi informed me that he had asked around the D.P.W. if anyone knew anything about the collision or incident and the response was negative. Thus, Sgt. Rossi stated there was nothing he could do without the registration of the truck and that the City of Cambridge hired many outside contractors and therefore it would be impossible to really do anymore about it but I asked him before he hung up to please speak with Dana. Dana then explained to Sgt. Rossi the only thing Mrs. McGrath could tell him was that it was definitely an Orange City of Cambridge truck but she really didn't know a caterpillar truck from any other truck.

On Thursday January 13, 1977 Dana was at the Police Department and went to see Sgt. Rossi to inquire if Sgt. Rossi had investigated the case anyfurther and Sgt. Rossi stated that he had talked with someone in the D.P.W. and no one knew about the collision and that noone had made out a report so there wasn't anymore he could do. Then Dana told Sgt. Rossi again it was definitely a City of Cambridge D.P.W. truck and that there was Orange and yellow paint on his damaged Van. Sgt. Rossi then replied what do you want me to do take a paint sample from your Van and go around trying to match it up with all of the City Trucks. At this point Dana thanked him and walked away.

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Dana in the meantime had taken his Van for an estimate for the damages and was told that he would have to have a \$200.00 deductible if the person responsible was not identified.

I his mother than became frustrated and felt like justice was not being done so I asked my husband to speak with Mrs. McGrath Thursday January 13, 1977, in the evening after work to see if she could supply any additional information. My husband John went over to Mrs. McGrath and again asked her what she had witnessed and she said she was in her kitchen window looking out when the accident occurred and that the driver of the truck saw her looking and knew that she had seen what happened. Mrs. McGrath said she could identify the driver of the truck and explained his looks to my husband. She described him as a heavy set gentleman with a grey sweatshirt on with grey hair.

This matched the description of the truck driver that Dana and I had talked with on Monday morning January 10, 1977.

This is where the story ends and as far as I know the report is at a standstill. Dana would appreciate any further help that the Claims Division can do.

Sincerely yours:

Maria De Furia

WITNESS:

Jacquelyn McGrath

OWNER OF CHEVROLET VAN:

Dana R. De Furia

P.S. We the members of the DeFuria family have lived in Cambridge at this same address for 28 years.

S-48

Comm. from Doris DeFaria requesting reimbursement for damages done to her son's van.

In City Council,

January 24, 1977

1/24/77

Referred to Claims Committee

Copy sent to claims cs