



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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JAMES THADDEUS McDAVITT

Commission Chairman

ANTHONY G. PAOLILLO

Chief-of-Police Department
Commission Member

THOMAS V. SCOTT

Chief-of-Fire Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI

Commission Executive Officer

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: James T. McDavitt, License Commission Chair

RE: City Council Resolutions to Address Noise Emanating From The Porter Square Star Market

DATE: October 2, 1989

PART I. Noise from Refrigeration Units

Please be advised that, pursuant to the above described resolutions received through your office, Marlene Knights of the License Commission staff took sound level readings which show the refrigeration units atop the Porter Square Star Market to be creating noise levels in violation of our ordinances.

In order to discuss these readings, on September 26, 1989, Marlene Knights and I had a meeting with Cambridge Police Lieutenant George Donovan, Larry Cochran (the Porter Square Star Market Manager), and John Curtis (Engineering Chief for all the local Star Markets).

Mr. Cochran agreed to correct the noise problem connected with the refrigeration units.

Mr. Curtis opined that it would take approximately (8) weeks to have professionals survey the problem, custom-make baffles for the refrigeration units, and to mount these baffles. Mr. Curtis and I agreed that the use of baffles solved a similar problem at the Mt. Auburn Star Market. Mr. Curtis also emphasized that, these refrigeration units are used to keep frozen or cold: meats, fish, butter, milk, etc. Mr. Curtis concluded that to shut the units off for (8) weeks would be tantamount to closing down for the (8) weeks.

Since this meeting, I have discussed the use of baffles as a long term solution with Senior Inspector Ron Bentubo of the Inspectional Services Department. He concurs that this should solve that noise problem.

Also since this meeting, I have discussed the use of baffles with Richard Williams of 5 Davenport Street. His bedroom is very close to these refrigeration

Robert W. Healy
October 2, 1989
Page Two

units. Mr. Williams finds the use of baffles acceptable as a long term solution, but he wants a cement wall built or other short term mitigating measures to be taken to address the problem for the next (8) weeks, i.e., until the baffles are in place.

I have discussed Mr. Williams' opinion with Mr. Curtis of Star Market, and Mr. Curtis feels there are no short-term measures that could be effected at a reasonable cost. Because no short-term measures are available, Mr. Curtis said he will double all efforts and try hard to get the baffles in place by the end of October.

In summary, then, the noise problem created by the refrigeration units atop the Porter Square Star Market will be resolved within (4)-(8) weeks. The issue which remains unresolved is whether the City will require costly mitigating measures to be taken over the next (4)-(8) weeks, until the baffles are in place, for the benefit of Mr. Williams and any others similarly situated.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

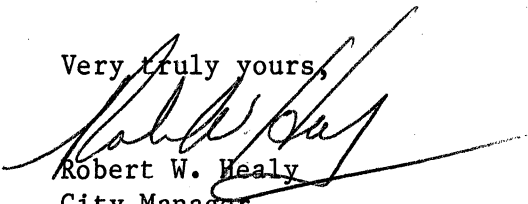
Deputy City Manager

October 16, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 47, regarding noise ordinance violations by the Star Market air conditioners, please find attached a report submitted by James McDavitt, License Commission Chair.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/dls
enclosure

Agenda # 5 5-1695

Response to Awaiting Report Item # 47 re:
to the noise ordinance violations by
Star Market air conditioners.

In City Council,

October 16, 1989

Placed on file