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## North Cambridge Stabilization Committee

July 24, 1997

Mr. Benjamin Barnes, Chairman  
Cambridge License Commission  
831 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

RECEIVED BY  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
97 JUL 31 PM 5:00  
CAMBRIDGE MA.

**RE: Yoffa Co., d/b/a Midas Muffler, 2501 Massachusetts Avenue**

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Please be advised that the operators of Midas Muffler on North Massachusetts Avenue have been regularly storing and servicing vehicles in the three unlicensed garage bays at this location.

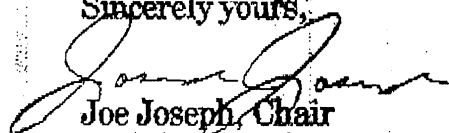
Although the Commission's staff notified the firm in writing several weeks ago that its preexisting garage and gasoline-storage license do not permit such activity, Midas has failed to cease its expanded operations.

Like the members of the License Commission who unanimously withheld the required garage permit in 1992, the Stabilization Committee continues to be concerned about the unaddressed safety hazards this enlarged garage creates for motorists and pedestrians—particularly the elders, children, and persons with infirmities who frequently traverse the obstructed sidewalks adjacent to the site. We also find it disturbing that this business has repeatedly ignored zoning laws and other city regulations governing safe use of the public ways.

We therefore ask the Commission to investigate this complaint, order an immediate halt to all unlicensed activities, schedule a disciplinary hearing, and impose appropriate penalties.

As always, the Committee appreciates your help in ensuring that the city's licensing regulations are respected and enforced so that the public's welfare is protected. I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joe Joseph, Chair  
20 Columbus Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02140

cc: Craig Kelley, Richard Clarey, Michael Brandon  
Mayor Sheila Russell  
Vice Mayor Kathy Born  
Cambridge City Council c/o City Clerk  
City Manager Robert Healy



# City of Cambridge

Calendar Item Number #4

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 23, 1992

COUNCILLOR WOLF

ORDERED: That this City Council go on record requesting the License Commission to deny the application of Yoffa Company, Inc., doing business as Midas Muffler Shops, for an increase in its auto repair garage from four cars and keeping the storage of forty gallons of gasoline in tanks of cars only to seven cars and the keeping and storage of seventy gallons of gasoline in tanks of cars only at 2501 Massachusetts Avenue.

In City Council November 23, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

*D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk



# City of Cambridge

60.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 16, 1997

VICE MAYOR BORN

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide the City Council with the following information about the recent Certificate of Occupancy for the Midas Muffler extension on Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge:

- Does the landscaping meet the conditions attached to the variance which was granted for the expansion?
- Was the proper storage of gasoline license applied for and granted for the expansion?
- Is the signage in conformance with the existing sign ordinance and, if not, under what terms is it legal as non-conforming?

67

Michael Brandon  
27 Seven Pines Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140  
(617) 864-3520

July 31, 1997

Cambridge City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
City Hall  
795 Mass. Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02139

RECEIVED BY  
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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Councilors:

As the attached letter indicates, Midas Muffler has again expanded its North Cambridge operations without the proper permits. (A License Commission hearing has been scheduled for August 5.)

I understand that you are awaiting a report from the City Manager regarding the status of this site. Moreover, the company has not proposed a plan to safeguard the pedestrians who use the narrow, obstructed public sidewalks adjacent to the facility.

I therefore urge you to renew the City Council's previous request that the License Commission not authorize expanded use of the facility at this time.

Sincerely yours,

*Michael Brandon*  
Michael Brandon

attachments: 3 pp.

Consent Communications #67

S- 487

Communication was received from Michael  
Brandon, transmitting concern on Midas  
Muffler operations.

In City Council August 4, 1997

**PLACED ON FILE**