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Mellen Street #1
Cambridge, MA 02138
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 10 October 1984

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Sirs:

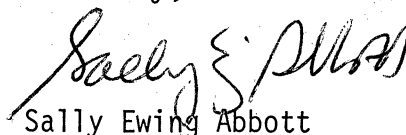
I am writing regarding the corner of John F. Kennedy Street and Eliot Street in Cambridge. In the past few weeks, this has been the site of three serious accidents, two of which were fatal and involved pedestrians. The other accident took place when a car hit a bicyclist.

This corner has always been dangerous. I have worked at the Kennedy School of Government at 79 JFK Street for the past five years, crossing Eliot Street at least four times a day. Eliot Street is a one-way street feeding into JFK Street. There is a stop sign on the right hand side of the street approximately 20 feet from the actual corner. The placement of the stop sign makes it hard to see by cars approaching the intersection and cars usually don't stop unless there is a pedestrian directly in their path. The cars may slow down briefly, but most don't stop. On occasion, policemen have been stationed just beyond the corner, on JFK Street between Eliot Street and Memorial Drive, ticketing cars which don't stop. This occurred a few weeks ago and two policemen who had pulled over 5 cars in a row, said that they weren't allowed to work this corner very often. Apparently the Police Department recognizes that this corner is a problem.

In the past months, construction work at the Kennedy School and the site of the old Gulf Station on Eliot Street have increased the dangers of crossing this street. There are more obstacles for cars to contend with and vision around the corners is worse than ever. Cars are approaching the intersection faster and are even less likely to stop. All this has made crossing extremely difficult. This will become even more hazardous when, on October 27 we go off Daylight Savings Time and it becomes dark sooner. Rush hour traffic occurring during times when it is dark is very dangerous to pedestrians at that corner.

I think it is imperative that action be taken quickly to solve this problem, in light of recent events. The most sensible solution would be to install a regular traffic light, complete with Walk/Don't Walk signs. I urge your speedy attention to this problem and hope that something can be done quickly.

Sincerely,


Sally Ewing Abbott

cc: Cambridge Police Department

S-624

Comm. from Sally Ewing Abbott, 14 Mellen St.,
expressing her concern regarding traffic
accidents & near-accidents at the corner of
John F. Kennedy St. and Eliot St.

*copy sent to the City Manager
10/17/84 ml*

In City Council,

October 15, 1984

10/15/84

Richard S. Page
FIN

Report in /over-