

# City of Cambridge

15.

February 10, 1997

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
MAYOR RUSSELL  
VICE MAYOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DAVIS  
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY  
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Problems have been identified relative to the intersections of Garden and Chauncy Streets and Concord Avenue (see attached letter); now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation relative to remedying, the present difficulties at the intersections of Garden and Chauncy Streets and Concord Avenue said remedy may include placing a sign at Garden Street requesting that the intersection not be blocked.

In City Council February 10, 1997  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

RECEIVED BY  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

97 FEB -5 PM 12:55

CONFIDENTIAL

February 1, 1997

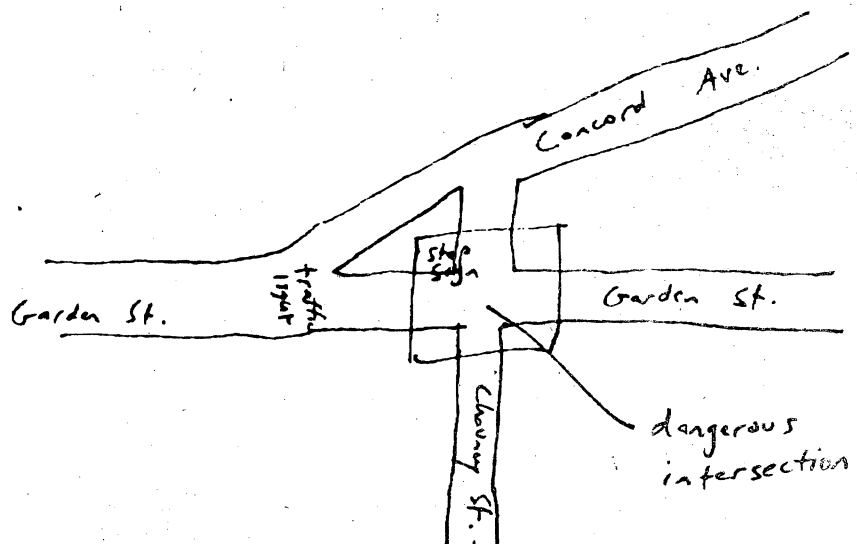
29 Garden Street #111  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Cambridge City Council Office  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to inform you of a traffic hazard in Cambridge. The corner of Garden and Chauncy Streets has been the site of numerous car accidents since the traffic signal was installed a short distance away, where Concord Avenue and Garden Street meet. As a student, I am often home in the afternoon; in a period of roughly one month I have heard or seen about ten car accidents at the intersection.

The problem is that cars turn from Concord onto the short extension of Chauncy with the intention of continuing on across Garden Street and down Chauncy (presumably to Massachusetts Avenue). There is a stop sign for the cars wishing to cross Garden; however, at busy traffic times, cars traveling east on Garden line up at the light at the intersection of Garden and Concord, often far enough back to block the intersection of Garden and Chauncy. Cars on Chauncy that hope to cross Garden and continue on Chauncy must inch through an opening; however, their view of cars traveling west on Garden is impaired by the cars going east on Garden stopped at the light. The problem is compounded, moreover, by the way that the traffic signal at Concord and Garden is timed. When cars going east on Garden have a red light, the cars going west on Garden have a green. This means that while a car tries to pass through an opening in the cars headed east on Garden (who are stopped at the red light), cars are coming west towards the intersection, having just received a green light at the Garden and Concord intersection. This combination of traffic stopped in one direction, impairing the view of oncoming traffic, and cars accelerating from the green light coming from the other direction, has created a very dangerous intersection. For your convenience, I have sketched out what the intersection looks like below.



I am not certain what would remedy the problem; the light at Garden and Concord was a welcome addition for that previously dangerous intersection. However, the peculiar layout there has led to an even more dangerous intersection a short 50 yards away. Perhaps another light at the corner of Garden and Chauncy would help, or perhaps changing the timing of the extant light at Garden and Concord.

I am certain that if you check the police traffic reports for the last few months you will see the frequency of accidents at the intersection. I hope you will be able to take action to remedy the problem.

Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Smith

cc: Department of Traffic and Parking  
57 Inman Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

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February 10, 1997

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2/10 matz

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

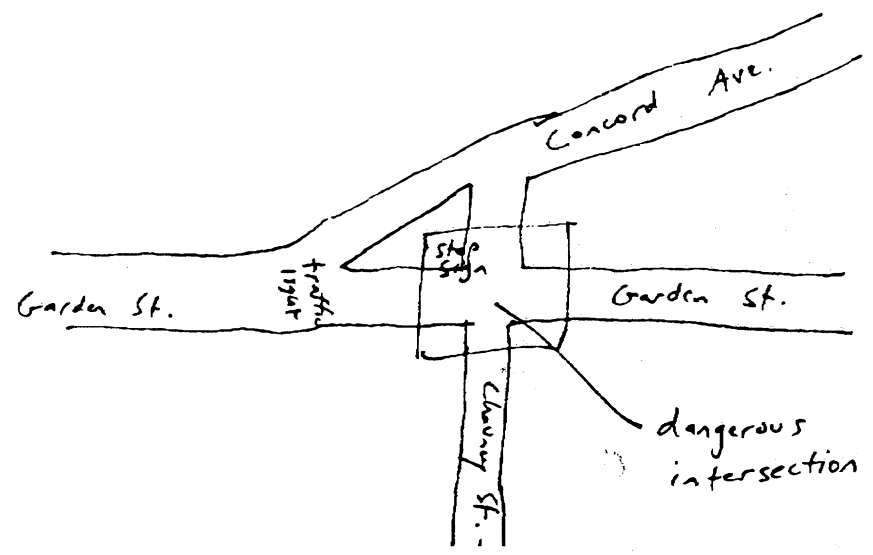
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IN CITY COUNCIL

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MAYOR RUSSELL

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Consent Order #15 *Entire  
memb.  
CM-74*

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**Councillor Sullivan and Mayor Russell re:  
Problems at the intersections of Garden  
and Chauncy Streets and Concord Avenue.**

**In City Council February 10, 1997**

**ORDER ADOPTED**