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CAMBRIDGE MA.



EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-354-3358
FAX: 617-354-5571

SHOWROOMS

614 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
617-354-3358
11 Acton Rd.
Chelmsford, Mass. 01824
508-256-9251
929 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, Mass. 01701
508-879-8383
1280 Oaklawn Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
401-463-6360
7 Jansen Court
W. Hartford, Conn. 06110
203-953-4015
23 Daniel St.
Milford, Conn. 06460
203-877-2791

June 27, 1996

BY HAND

Miss Margaret Drury, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Miss Drury:

Enclosed, you will please find a letter which I would appreciate having distributed to the members of the City Council.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

CFB/Drury3

Enc.



Putnam

Furniture Leasing Company, Inc.



June 26, 1996

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TO: The Honorable Members of the
Cambridge City Council

RE: ILLEGAL BICYCLE RIDING ON CENTRAL SQUARE SIDEWALKS

Approximately one year ago, I wrote to you and reported a personal episode whereby seven bicyclists passed on both sides of me in narrow part of the sidewalk between the MBTA subway entrance and building in front of my building. The space was so narrow that I was unable to move and they came up, silently, from behind me, with no warning. I couldn't even turn. At that time, I was 79 years of age, and not in any position to outrun them or even to move quickly to one side. I requested assistance from the Cambridge City Council in enforcing the existing ban on sidewalk riding by bicyclists. Nothing has been done, effectively, to date, to the best of my knowledge and bicyclists still appear, regularly, on the sidewalks here.

Monday, June 17, 1996, at the rear of my building on the sidewalk on Green Street, as I was leaving the building, accompanied by my wife, who is physically handicapped at this time, both of us had an experience whereby a bicycle, going at high speed, approached us from our left, as we left our entranceway, and narrowly missed hitting us. Now, at age 80, neither my wife nor I are able to jump out of harm's way when an insolent rider, completely oblivious to the rights of pedestrians, swears at us, because he might be endangered if he hit us. He circled around onto the street, raised his hand in an obscene gesture, and swore at us because we had the unmitigated gall to obstruct his high-speed passage on a sidewalk in a forbidden part of Central Square.

I have purposely emphasized the age of my wife and myself and my wife's handicapped condition, since we feel that we are representative of the elderly from the Manning Apartments who face our entrance at the rear of our building, and the many people who walk on the sidewalks in Central Square in front and back of our building. I do not feel that only bicyclists have rights, and this was clearly understood when the city ordinance was written. I hope that it does not take a serious injury or death to finally have definitive and effective steps taken to see to it that the practice of riding bicycles on the sidewalks in Central Square is forbidden and enforced by the Cambridge Police Department. No one else has the authority to pursue this.

Member of

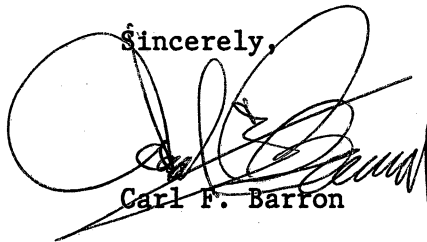


Honorable Members of
the Cambridge City Council
June 26, 1996
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Also, I am wondering if it might not be possible to distribute printed flyers through the schools, youth groups, and notices of an enforced program via the newspapers? It seems utterly ridiculous that citizens should be forced to beg for the enforcement of an ordinance that was put into place to prevent the very kind of episodes that have almost taken place with me and my wife, alone. How many others have had similar experiences? I read in the CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE about other people requesting the same type of assistance.

I do hope that your august body, in its infinite wisdom, will take prompt steps to see to it that this ordinance is enforced as it was originally intended, for the safety and security of citizens, of all ages.

My thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

CFB/CityCou8

cc: Acting Police Commissioner Harold Murphy
John Breneman, Editor, CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE
Robert Boulrice, President, Central Square
Neighborhood Coalition
Board of Directors, Central Square Business
Association
Tracy Gallagher, Chairman, Cambridge Chamber
of Commerce
Mrs. Astrid Dodds
Pedestrian Committee, c/o Office of the City Manager

Consent Communication #11

S-391

Communication was received from Carl Barron,
Putnam Furniture Leasing Company, Inc.
regarding illegal bicycle riding on side-
walks in the Central Square area.

In City Council July 29, 1996

Placed on file