

55 Magazine Street #52
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

2 MAY 1996
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

Office of the City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

96 MAY -2 PM 3:37

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Dear City Councillors:

I wish to call your attention to EXCESSIVE snowplowing in my neighborhood this past winter. I live on Magazine Street in Cambridgeport. I have lived here for twenty three years and although there have been some questionable plowing practices in past years, nothing compares with what has happened this winter.

The problem is that when there is no more snow remaining to be plowed, the equipment is concentrated in my neighborhood and run around with plowblades scraping blacktop and generating a huge amount of noise - I suppose in order to fulfil some contractual agreement. The equipment belongs to the Public Works Department as well as to outside contractors.

I have documented the evening plow activity during each storm this winter, entering the time of each passing into my log.

As an example, on one occasion of VERY LIGHT snowfall, we averaged one plow every three minutes over a period of time in excess of two hours - and all this AFTER THE STREETS HAD ALREADY BEEN THOROUGHLY PLOWED. Compare this with an entirely adequate job done by just three plows in an hour during another evening of heavy snowfall - when the excess equipment was dispersed throughout the City.

Keeping these logs was the only way I could think of to document this excessive activity. I can make copies available to you and am willing to swear to their accuracy. A meeting with Commissioner Dunphy resulted in no improvement and my subsequent request to meet with City Manager Healy has been ignored.

I have been told by the area supervisor and by Commissioner Dunphy that if they park the equipment to await the arrival of a predicted storm or to fulfil a contractual agreement, they open themselves to criticism of wasting taxpayers' money. The unnecessary running of this equipment in someone's neighborhood appears to be their solution.

This practice must be stopped. It is not only wasteful of taxpayers' money, it is destructive of the peace and quiet in the neighborhoods involved.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Watters

Peter J. Watters
tel: 492-0483

Consent Communication #9

S-256

Communication was received from
Peter J. Watters, transmitting attention
to excessive snowplowing in his
~~neighborhood this past winter.~~

In City Council May 6, 1996

*Referred to City Manager
for response to Petitioner*