



# City of Cambridge

37.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 18, 1998

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

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide this City Council with a status report on relocating the pedestrian crossing light from the corner of Norman and Belmont Streets up to Cushing and Belmont Streets, as contained in the attached communication.

In City Council May 18, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

April 13, 1998

Sheila Russell  
Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Ms. Russell:

Sometime last spring the "Cambridge Chronicle" noted that the road and traffic projects planned for the summer of 1997 included moving the pedestrian crossing light from the corner of Norman and Belmont Streets up half a block to the corner of Cushing and Belmont Streets. I was very happy to read this, as the lack of a light at the Cushing Street corner had long concerned me. However, more than a year has gone by with no such move, and I wonder if the city still plans to make the switch, and if so, when. If the move is not planned, I urge the city to reconsider, as the Cushing Street corner is an accident waiting to happen.

I am sure you are familiar with the area: Norman Street is a dead end, and I assume the crossing light was originally placed there accommodate children crossing to the Sacred Heart School (no longer used as a school). The Cushing Street corner is very busy:

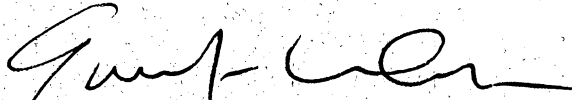
- there are bus stops on both sides of Belmont Street at the Cushing Street corner, which result in many pedestrians crossing there;
- Cushing Street itself is very busy with traffic coming out of the neighborhood and with through traffic from Huron Avenue;
- additional traffic comes from the businesses along Belmont Avenue on both sides of Cushing Street.

Without a light at this corner, it is very difficult for pedestrians to cross busy Belmont Street, and the left turn out of Cushing onto Belmont is hard for drivers. Exacerbating the problem of no light at this corner, the delivery vans and trucks which service the nearby businesses often have to park so as to obstruct the view of pedestrians and cars coming off of Cushing Street. Finally, Belmont Street is quite wide at this point, making it difficult for the elderly and those with small children to get across it quickly.

I have seen too many close calls involving either pedestrians trying to cross two busy lanes of traffic, or cars trying to make turn out of Cushing Street, or both. I am afraid it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt.

Thank you for any attention you can give to this, and I look forward to hearing from you on what the city plans for this corner.

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn Whittaker

73 Cushing Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

617-576-1734

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~~Attachment~~

Councillor Russell

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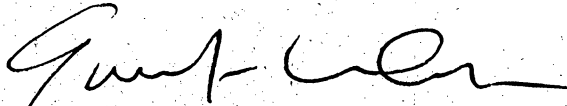
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Gwendolyn Whittaker

73 Cushing Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

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**COUNCILLOR RUSSELL**

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Consent Order #37

271 CM

Councillor Russell re: report on relocating  
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In City Council May 18, 1998

**ORDER ADOPTED**