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1995 OCT 19 PM 1:28

CAMBRIDGE MA.

245 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Ma. 02138
October 18, 1995

City Clerk
City Hall, 795
Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Sir:

My family's concern about the truck and general traffic on Brattle Street in front of our house has prompted me to write this letter. We have lived 22 years at this address, and during that time the truck and car traffic has steadily increased, especially during the last three or four years. Some of these changes include:

1. More very early morning traffic including larger trucks going at excess speed, and more morning rush traffic from 7:30 to 9.
2. Larger 18-wheeler trucks servicing the Mt. Auburn Star Market and UPS in Watertown on scheduled runs during the night between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m..
3. Container trucks carrying inflammables, going at excessive speeds.
4. Many more construction-type trucks such as Bardon Trimount concrete and Puglia flat earth-moving trucks on a run over to Kirkland Street.

Resulting from this increased traffic has been

1. Less safety with accidents occurring at the island in the intersection of Brattle Street and at the intersections of Fresh Pond Lane and Larch Road with Brattle Street, some occurring just recently.
2. Less safety to pedestrians (especially children and elderly) trying to cross Brattle Street at crosswalks at 248 Brattle and between the two condominium buildings - traffic approaching Brattle Street from Mt. Auburn Street speeds too fast for good visibility of parked cars and pedestrians.
3. More noise from trucks changing gears and vibrations which shake the house, especially from speeding Puglia trucks hitting pot holes.
4. More air pollution, as we are across from two condominium buildings which trap the exhaust and noise.
5. Less restful periods on the street through the night and Sunday a.m..

I believe that Brattle Street has been relatively neglected by the City during these years of our residence. For instance, the street has not been repaved on our section during these years, and even the stretch between Mason or Craigie Streets and Fresh Pond Parkway has not been repaved in about 20 years. The present surface is terribly cut up, causing heavy trucks to vibrate the street and houses. Present lines on the street need repainting for safety of children and the elderly, especially at the crosswalks. Also when other streets in the City have been designated as restricted to truck traffic, no notification of Brattle Street residents has occurred to alert them to resulting effects, nor have residents been given a chance to give feedback on the effects of changing lengths of green lights on Fresh Pond Parkway and Mount Auburn St., which create the morning gridlock on Brattle St..

Two years ago, a movement on traffic issues by Brattle and Craigie Street neighborhoods resulted in a meeting in the spring at the Brewster Museum. City officials present did not seem to feel that they could support Brattle Street residents because it was not politically correct to support West Cambridge, and the City Councilors present did not seem comfortable with supporting Brattle Street concerns because of their allegiance to their own streets. It also took a new resident recently arrived from California to tell us what was special about the beauty of the street. More has to be heard in defense of us on Brattle Street, which should be put in perspective for the whole City.

Our section of Brattle Street between Fresh Pond Parkway and the Mount Auburn Street intersection is unique on the street. As our houses are closer together and we include two large condominium buildings, I would like to remind the city and our elected officials that this section includes at least 56 residences effected by this traffic; we pay a substantial proportion of taxes to the City, have certainly over 56 voters, and include about 20 children and 20 elderly. Also this section is the entrance into the Larchwood neighborhood, whose residents also share these concerns about driving and walking safely on Brattle Street. This is an old street, which was not designed nor built to be a major truck route nor traffic artery.

I believe that it is in the best interests of the City of Cambridge to act on the concerns of its Brattle Street citizens. Because we are in the oldest section of Cambridge, tourism on our street generates money for local businesses. Those of us who still care enough to keep up our houses and gardens and share them with the street do need support from the City. It is noteworthy that the street is zoned only for residences and churches

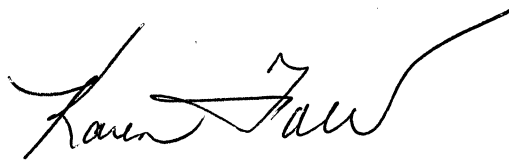
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from Mason Street west and that it has a historic district prevented from building fences for privacy and noise reduction because of Cambridge Historical Commission guidelines. It is the responsibility of the City to help protect these properties which are not allowed to protect themselves.

Hopefully, the City has the leadership today to put pressure on neighboring Boston and suburbs which effect our traffic patterns, support new regulations for reducing truck exhaust, provide the maintenance to keep the street safe and free from vibrations, to design disincentives from the inappropriate use of Brattle Street and most importantly, to administer speed limits and other regulations already in place.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Falb". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping line.

Karen Forslund Falb

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Communication was received from Karen Forslund Falb, 245 Brattle Street, transmitting her family's concern about the truck and general traffic on Brattle Street in front of her house.

END. 10/23/95

10/23/95 10:15 AM

In City Council October 23, 1995

Referred to the 7:00 p.m.
hearing