



City of Cambridge

53.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 12, 1994

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR WALSH
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR WALSH
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation with the view in mind of reviewing and discussing the contents of the attached memorandum from Holly Rothermel and Michael Dattelbach with regards to Larch Road; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager report back to this City Council on his findings.

In City Council September 12, 1994.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury,
City Clerk

53
attachment

August 16, 1994

Dear City Council Members:

We are writing to you about the possibility of changing a street from one-way to two-way. We live on Larch Road, specifically the section of Larch Road between Huron Avenue and Fresh Pond Parkway. This section of Larch Road is one way, allowing movement in the Huron to Fresh Pond direction only.

There are only eleven houses on this section of Larch Road, and it is less than a block long. Until today, residents had been exiting their homes onto Huron Avenue (i.e. against the one-way), in order to get to downtown Boston or the Huron Village Shopping area and Harvard Square. This had presented no harm to anyone, and is really the only practical route to take (as the enclosed map shows.) No one else uses the street in this direction, it is only residents wishing to exit their homes in the easiest way possible.

As you know, there has been construction all summer long on Huron Avenue, which has been very disruptive. My husband Michael, who works at home, has had an especially tough time concentrating with all the noise. However, we have been tolerant, knowing the work needed to be done. Today, however, the police officer stationed with the workers (whose function seemed unclear at best), took it upon himself to cite every single person turning out of Larch Road the wrong way, including my husband. He did not care that we were residents and that this was the only feasible way to reach our destination, or that living on the corner we only drove 20 feet down the wrong way, but suggested that we go the other way down our street, a suggestion that is impractical and dangerous for the following reasons:

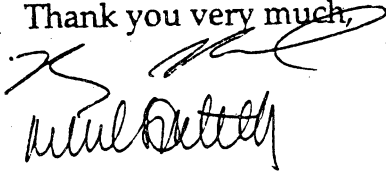
1) If we wish to go towards the City of Boston, which would necessitate a left turn onto Fresh Pond Parkway, going the correct way down our street and taking a left off of Larch, rather than Huron, would be both unsafe and difficult. There is no light, it is a blind corner, and the traffic is horrific. We are witnesses to the many accidents that take place at Huron and Fresh Pond, where there is a light, and there would certainly be more if we were to attempt to take a left turn into the thick rush hour traffic on Fresh Pond Parkway.

2) If we wish to go to the Huron Village shopping area, or Harvard Square, going the correct way down the street entails driving all the way down Fresh Pond Parkway, around the rotary, back Concord Avenue and down Huron the other way. This is 1.5 miles out of the way in heavy traffic, and is clearly ludicrous when the shopping area is a straight shot down Huron.

We were perfectly happy with the street arrangements, if we as residents were allowed to exit Larch Road onto less-trafficked Huron Avenue rather than freeway-style Fresh Pond Parkway. If, however, the local police have decided they are going to spend their days citing all the residents on this road (not just a ticket, but a required court appearance), I would like to have the street changed to two-way--the sign could easily be removed. After all, the only people that go down the street the wrong way are residents, the change would have no impact on traffic patterns.

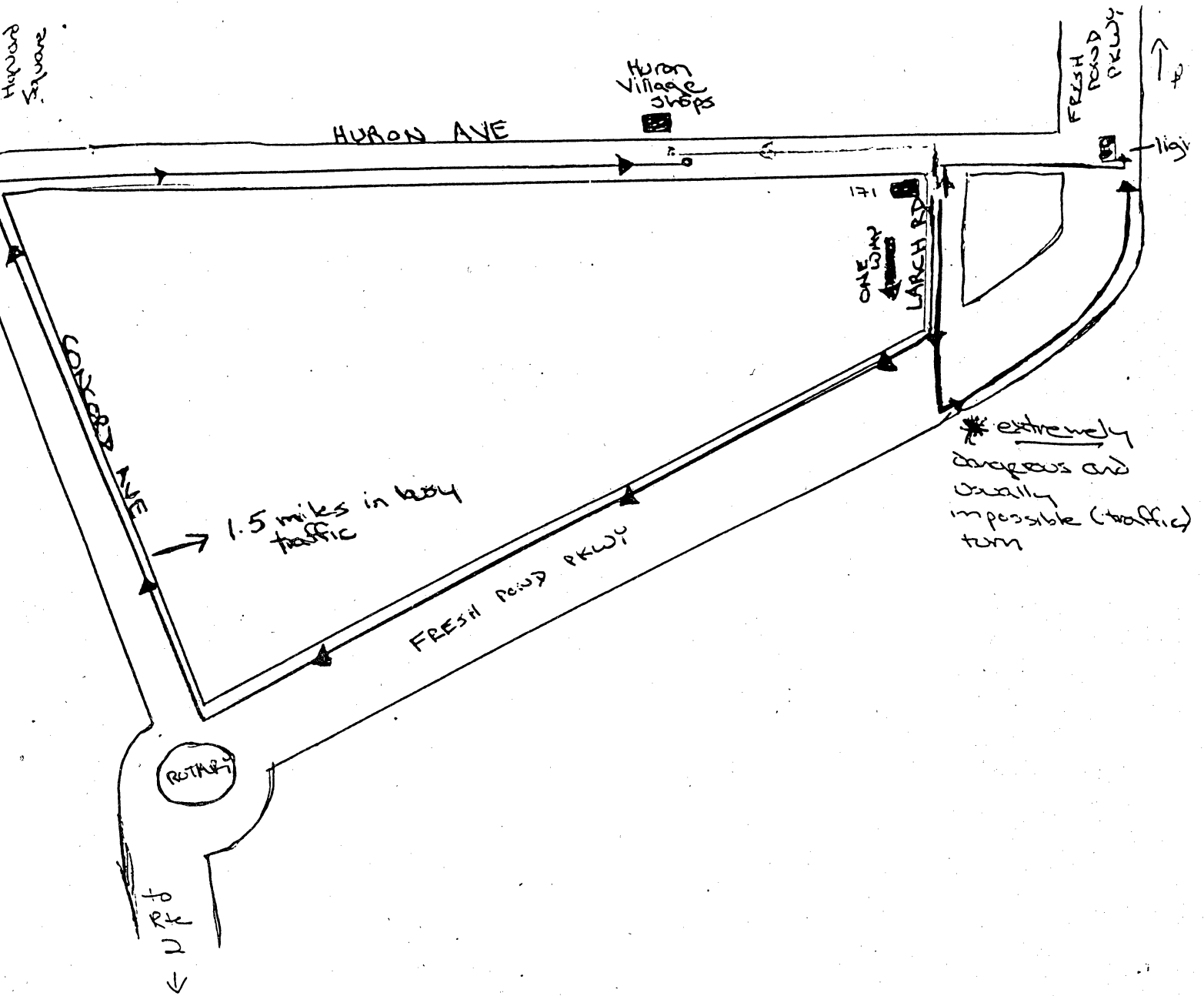
We would be grateful for a reply in this matter. A quick drive down our end of Larch Road would make the issue clear. We are quite upset by today's events, especially since the city has been doing construction on our doorsteps all summer.





Thank you very much,



Holly Rothermel
Michael Dettelbach
171 Larch Road
Cambridge, MA
02138

cc: City Clerk
Mayor's Office



- CURRENT ROUTE TO BOSTON 
- "LEGAL" ROUTE TO BOSTON 
- CURRENT ROUTE TO SHOPS 
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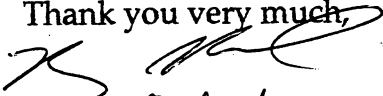

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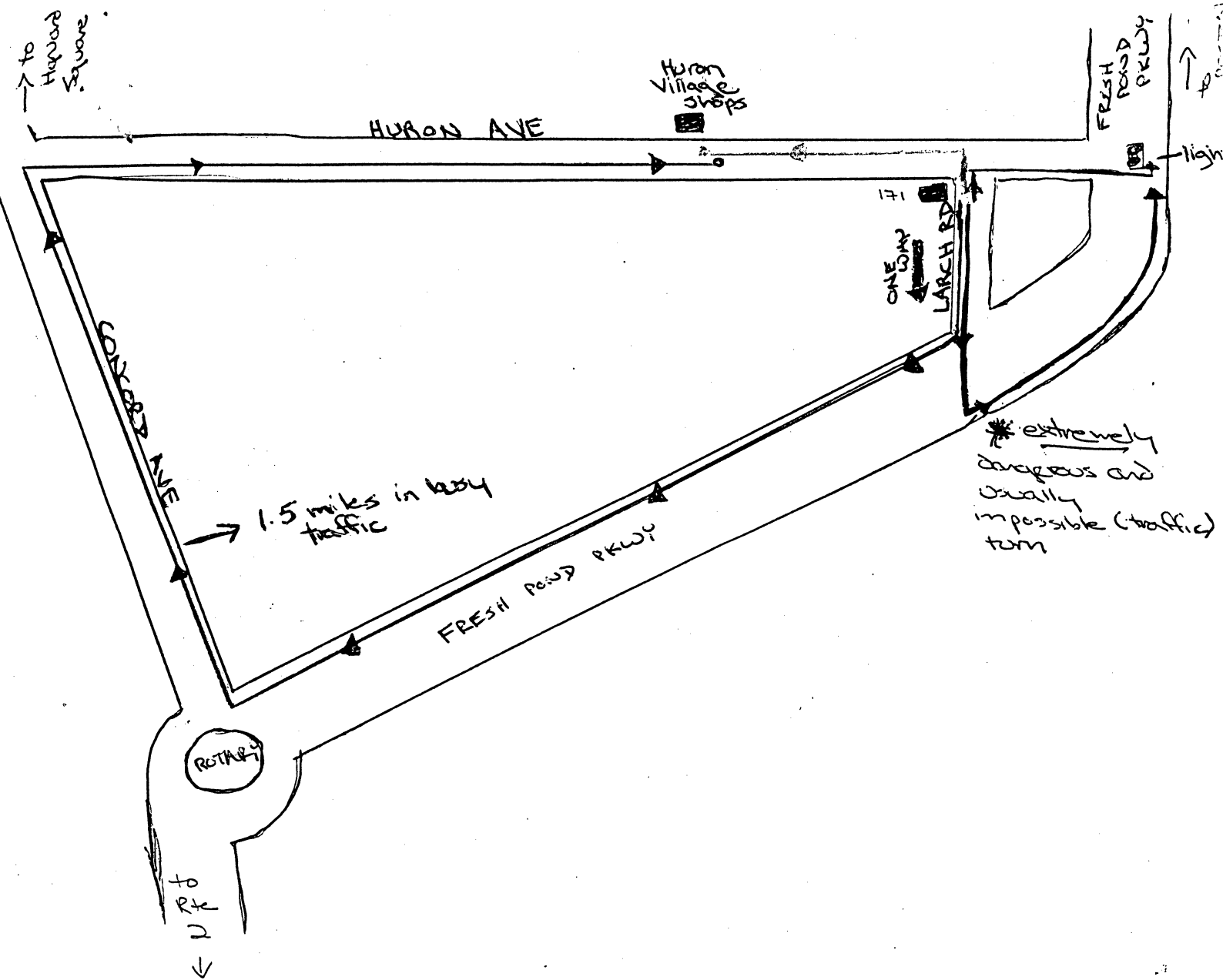
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Councillor Sullivan

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BM
Duby
JM Russell
Montefillon
Walsh
CM 262

Councillor Sullivan re: Communication received from residents of Larch Road.

In City Council September 12, 1994

Order adopted.