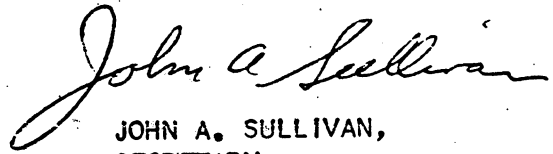


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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC BOARD WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 23, 1977 AT 10AM, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX,  
THIRD FLOOR, 57 INMAN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



JOHN A. SULLIVAN,  
SECRETARY

Traffic Board Meeting  
January 26, 1977.

Present: Chairman Vincent Panico, Deputy Fire Chief Griffin, Capt. Lawrence Brutti, Lt. Joseph Borelli, John Pitkin, Dick Easler, George Teso, Lauren Preston, Conrad Fagone and David Bryant.

1. Mr. Panico stated that the City had done a remarkable job on plowing the streets under adverse conditions and had received many compliments from motorists from outside the City wishing their streets were plowed as well. Mr. Teso remarked that the snow was not plowed back far enough in the first storm, when the plows went back for a second time to plow it, the snow was frozen solid and the plows could not move it. He was asked if we could allow people to park in municipal parking lots during a snow emergency. Mr. Teso said no, we would be unable to clean them out so as to have them clear for the business community. Mr. Teso also stated that the Green Street Garage has been full for the past few weeks. We have also contacted Industries with parking lots and asked if the public would be able to use them during an emergency. All refused stating they had their own problems and employees and questioned the liability. As for school lots and playgrounds being used, the fear was that if we did use them, the cost in the Spring to get them back in shape would be prohibitive.

2. Tow and Hold:

The Computer is not giving us a list of Out-of-State cars with five or more citations. We have to do it by hand. Mr. Moorcroft goes through the book at the Court House, then checks to see if they have been paid. This is time consuming and expensive. Our authority to tow is a City Ordinance. We have an Act before the General Court granting the City the authority to tow and hold vehicles with 5 or more unpaid tickets. Senator Lombardi has promised to push it. The Traffic Department is now negotiating with another computer company (Data Processing, Inc.) to process Cambridge tickets. If the change is made, summons will be issued for 1976 tickets and work backwards as fast as possible. The Registry is planning to change License Plates in '78.

3. Revenue:

The collection from meters and the garage are up for the past six months but summons collections are down \$180,000.00. The revenue for the year is up \$70,000.00 over last year but well under the estimate amount we quoted the City Manager in our budget prediction.

4. Iced in Cars:

Lt. Borelli wanted to know how we can tow iced in cars and where to put them. He said many citizens want them towed because they can't get them out themselves. Tow companies do not want to tow iced in cars, as they cannot charge the owner for removing snow and ice and are liable for any damage to the vehicle. As there is no regulation to provide for towing iced in cars it was suggested that the Tow Companies be paid \$25.00 per tow for iced in cars. The contract would have to be changed as it now calls for \$12.00 per tow and the ticket would have to state that the car was iced in. Mr. Teso said that if we had enough Tow Companies working that the cars would not be there long enough to be iced in. We are now in the process of contacting all Tow Companies authorized to tow in Cambridge to see if they would be willing to tow during snow emergencies. Mr. Fagone complained that on many streets with two sided parking it was impossible for his plows or sanders to get to them. Fire Chief Griffin seconded this and said in many places that Fire trucks had to park on the Main street and run extra hoses to the site of the fire. Even in case of emergency, drivers of Fire equipment are driving on their own licenses and cannot drive the wrong way on One Way streets or the wrong side of streets. The Traffic Department is working on a list of trouble streets and plan to restrict parking on one side from December 1st to April 1st. We must have enforcement 24 hours a day and tag daily or it will not work. Harvard St. was pointed out as a street that in previous years was a disaster area during snow storms. Now, with one side parking it is much better this year. Mr. Fagone said that if an iced in car had 8-10 tickets it would be worth his while to send up a pay-loader to dig it out and tow it.

5. Sidewalks:

Mr. Fagone admitted that sidewalks were a mess and practically impassable, especially for the elderly. The law pertaining to the cleaning of sidewalks

is for all purposes ignored even after a police warning and letters from the DPW. The Public Works Dept. receive very few complaints about sidewalks and does not have the men or equipment to clear them. Some of the surrounding cities and towns plow the sidewalks on school routes. In Cambridge this would be for 18 schools or 75% of all sidewalks. Mr. Pitkin asked that the regulation in clearing sidewalks be rewritten and enforced. It was agreed that the burden of cleaning sidewalks be on the City Council.

6. Right Turns:

In 1977 there is a bill before the General Court to allow right turns on the red light at signalized intersections. Mr. Teso thinks that the right turn should be allowed only at signals posted to that affect.

7. Complaints:

When the Traffic Dept. receives complaints from citizens on towing or ticketing the complainor is instructed to send his complaint in writing to the Law Dept. and Chief of Police.

8. Visitor Permits:

Mr. George Teso, Mr. Vincent Panico, and Mr. John Pitkin reviewed the requests for Resident Parking Permits.

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