

William Sommers
Commissioner

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge
Massachusetts 02139
617.498.9051

May 5, 1989

TO: Joe Connarton, City Clerk

I have attached a rather remarkable letter of thanks from a Mr. Howard Klein for the excellent service he received from three members of our 3-11 crew and from the the rubbish truck crew on duty that day. While the 3-11 crew names are mentioned, the rubbish crew members were John Foley, Driver, Joe Travis and Joe Ferrolito, laborers.

While we do receive a number of letters of commendation for service, this is most outstanding and exemplifies, I believe, what it means to have a public service with a public trust operating at its best.

I would appreciate your bringing this to the attention of the City Council.

Bill Sommers



CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
**THE
WORKS**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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525 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02215
May 1, 1989

The Honorable William Sommers
Commissioner of Public Works
City of Cambridge
147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Commissioner Sommers:

I am writing to inform you of the unparalleled dedication demonstrated by three employees of the Public Works Department on the evening of Friday, April 28, 1989. At 4:45 P.M. that day, I paused for a brief respite behind City Hall before assuming my duties as a consultant to the Data Processing Department. Upon completion of my duties at 9:00 P.M., I realized that I had inadvertently left my knapsack outside behind City Hall. The knapsack contained annotated law books and outlines which I will need for my law exams next week, as well as the "Skull of Knowledge", which I was awarded for my outstanding contributions to the Suffolk University Law Review, and which I must pass along next year to an equally deserving staff member.

Needless to say, I experienced an all-consuming affectation of terror. I proceeded to search the nearby streets, dumpsters, and trash cans, and notified the Cambridge Police of this tragic occurrence. After hours of searching, I despaired. Finally, I called my roommate in the hope that someone had found my knapsack and notified him, although I was unaware of any identification in the knapsack. I was jubilant when he informed me that the Public Works Department had recovered my possessions.

I then called the Public Works Department and identified myself. The gentleman informed me that I could pick up my knapsack immediately. I hailed a taxi and proceeded directly to the 147 Hampshire Street building where I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hannon, Mr. Cassidy, and Mr. Maynard.

They told me that someone in the rubbish truck had found my knapsack near the trash, and had returned it to the Public Works Department. Applying principles of logical deduction worthy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's great protagonist, your employees determined my identity, and called directory assistance to acquire my phone number. Immediately thereafter, these dedicated public servants phoned my residence and notified my roommate of the situation.

Upon receipt of my possessions, I begged your employees to accept a meager reward for recovering my vital books and irreplaceable award. Without a thought, however, they refused any compensation for their good deeds. I am writing, therefore, to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to them for their selfless dedication, impeccable honesty, and genuine commitment to public service. I am greatly indebted to these gentleman. I would also like to commend you for employing these good-natured, loyal, and trustworthy public servants who have served the City of Cambridge with the utmost distinction.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howard B. Klein", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Howard B. Klein

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Comm. from William Somers, Commissioner of Public Works, transmitting for informational purposes a letter from Howard B. Klein, commending members of the Public Works Dept. for their outstanding efforts in recovering his missing knapsack.

In City Council,

May 15, 1989

5-15-89

Placed on file.