



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: James L. Sullivan
City Manager

DATE: May 14, 1979

FROM: Chief Leo F. Davenport

REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Traffic Enforcement Plan

Dear Sir:

During the years 1974 through 1978, the Cambridge Police Department has investigated a total of 16,124 motor vehicle accidents. There were, as a result of these accidents, approximately 7,000 persons injured and 32 people were killed. During this period 573 pedestrians were involved in accidents as were 295 bicycles. There were 2,175 hit and run accidents reported.

The Officers of the Cambridge Police Department have issued 19,324 citations during this period and 4,892 were issued for speeding.

The City of Cambridge covers an area of 6.2 square miles. There are 125 miles of streets and roads to safely maintain; further, the City has a population of approximately 112,000 persons according to the last census. However, because Cambridge is the site of four major universities and because of its proximity to Boston, it is estimated that daily approximately 375,000 to 400,000 persons fill the City. The City is transversed by a number of major roadways, namely, Routes 2, 2A, 16 and a number of large parkways. All of these are very heavily used especially on Monday through Friday. Most of the City is densely populated and there are many wider than normal roadways. Because of the larger width of these streets (Concord Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Broadway, Cambridge Street, Main Street, Huron Avenue) speeding is causing a major problem and has become a threat to the citizens. This problem is made even more difficult to solve during the school year because of the influx of students. Also, the historical and cultural features tend to bring a great many visitors to our City.

The Cambridge Police Department has a combined program of selective enforcement and public safety education in an effort to reduce the number of accidents and injuries. A 13-man traffic unit is assigned to patrol areas where there is a high incidence of accidents. The traffic unit issues a bulletin (see attached sample) to all uniform personnel that keeps the entire patrol division abreast of the problem areas.

continued

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

- 2 -

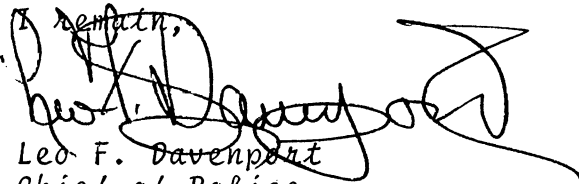
May 14, 1979

At present the Department is awaiting delivery of five new hand held radar guns through assistance from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. The Department has used this type of radar in the past and has had very satisfactory results. The use of radar in high accident areas tends to slow down traffic thereby decreasing accidents.

Besides radar there is also a concerted effort to reduce all other traffic violations. Men are assigned to patrol areas where there are repeated infractions of U-turns, Stop Signs, Red Lights, as well as, all parking violations.

A combined effort between the Police and Traffic Departments has led to a very successful street cleaning program. Each street is cleaned once a month except during the winter. This program has accounted for the recovery of a great many stolen cars and a reduction in parking offences.

In conclusion, the Cambridge Police Department will maintain a strict policy of traffic enforcement for the purpose of saving lives, reducing injuries and lowering the number of accidents. This effort, hopefully, will make the Cambridge streets safe for all its citizens.

I remain,

Leo F. Davenport
Chief of Police

Attachment

LFD:smp



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS

TRAFFIC BUREAU

April, 1979

HIGH ACCIDENT AREAS - January 1 thru March 31, 1979

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#</u> <u>OF ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>#</u> <u>OF ACCIDENTS</u>
Aberdeen & Mt. Auburn	6*	Columbia & Lincoln	3
Albany & Mass.	8*	Concord & Huron	3
Amherst & Mass.	4	Dana & Harvard	3
Ash & Mt. Auburn	4	Day & Mass	3
Austin & Prospect	6*	DeWolfe & Mt. Auburn	3
Bay & Green	7*	Everett & Mass	3
Blackstone & River	3	Franklin & River	3
Boylston & Mt. Auburn	7*	Garden & Mass	8*
Brattle & Mass.	3	Hampshire & Prospect	5*
Broadway & Dana	3	Mass & Prospect	5*
Broadway & Prospect	4	Mass & Rindge	5*
Broadway & Third	4	Mass & Upland	3
Brookline & Mass	3	Mass & Vassar	4
Cambridge & Highland	3	Mt. Auburn & Story	3
Cambridge & Quincy	3	Pacific & Sidney	4
Cambridge & Third	3	Sherman & Walden	3
Cambridge & Tremont	3		
Chauncy & Mass	3		

MAIN THOROUGHFARES

Brattle St.	12
Broadway	14
Brookline St.	3
Cambridge St.	35
Columbia St.	1
Concord Ave.	15
Hampshire St.	4
Harvard St.	5
Huron Ave.	6
Magazine St.	2
Main St.	10
Mass. Ave.	101
Mt. Auburn St.	20
Prospect St.	6
River St.	5
Western Ave.	3



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

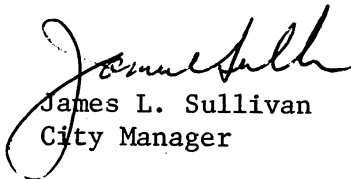
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

May 21, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 1 relative to a comprehensive traffic enforcement plan, enclosed please find copy of a report from Police Chief Leo F. Davenport.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #3

S/308

Response to Awaiting Report No. 1 re: comprehensive traffic enforcement plan.

In City Council,

May 21, 1979

Placed on File