

September 6, 1972

THE CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF VOTERS

14 E. John Lopez Ave.

Cambridge Mass. 02141

Ms. Ackerman and other members of the City Council:

Our organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life in our fair city. Much has been accomplished in recent years, yet Cambridge still retains some notable defects. It is our purpose to improve the ecological, social, and artistic institutions in Cambridge.

Obviously, ecology comes first. In this, we wish to present to you a formal and stiff complaint.

The fire fighting department in our city is among the most efficient in the country. It must also be one of the noisiest. The totally nerve-shattering, ear-splitting racket of the sirens is surpassed only in volume by the feral engines. Do mufflers exist on our beloved and useful fire engines? If so, why don't they work?

We all realize, of course, that an easily recognizable, consistent and loud signal must be employed to scatter traffic. However, we do feel quite strongly that a siren blaring at 140 decibels is exceedingly unnecessary, especially at 3 a.m. Not only does the truculent volume damage the ears of dogs and cats but it also damages the ears of people.

We realize that the city is hard pressed for money. We think sufficient capital could be raised by doing any or all of the below mentioned ideas:

- 1) Set up a donation center in Harvard Sq. and Central Sq.
- 2) Ask a church or a business establishment for the use of a hall. Hire a local band, or a well-known band, and charge admission. Many people would come to a dance or concert of this sort.
- 3) Legalize panhandling and tax it. Perhaps even require a license to panhandle.
- 4) Buy tickets to the Game and win.

You do have your own minds, we suggest that you use them even more than you have been. If not, Cambridge will either die from pollution or insensitivity to our mutually shared living conditions.

We remain,

critically yours,

The Cambridge Association of Voters

Communication from the Cambridge
 Association of Voters relative
 to noise from Fire Department
 vehicles.

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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Sept 25/ 1972
Referred to the
Anti Noise League
Copies to the Councilors
and City Manager