

348 Franklin Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Telephone 617-491-7181
July 25, 1994

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
JUL 25 AM 7:49
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Commissioner Perry Anderson
Police Department
5 Western Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Commissioner:

Last evening I had yet another impressive experience at Franklin Street Park. Just walking around, checking out the situation, after dark, and suddenly, out of nowhere, a smiling, polite police officer. This is not the first time, nor the second, in recent weeks. I think it has been a different officer every time. Once it was two.

This is impressive. It is appreciated.

The neighborhood meeting under the auspices of the Riverside Community Watch was also appreciated. It was a good idea which has been a fine catalyst. The presence of two of your officers, attending separately, at the well attended block party which was organized by the neighborhood as a result of your meeting, was strongly appreciated as well.

I have publicly thanked Councillor Sullivan and the City Council with regard to the clean up of the worst of the graffiti and the trimming of the trees. Their input was, almost certainly of pivotal importance. I understand that the Police Department has been working on the matter quietly and effectively, as well. I have publicly and privately thanked Councillor Sullivan, the city manager, DPW and the City Arborist.

Clearly the timing of the work with regard to your neighborhood meeting indicates an intention of the city to coordinate the two. I strongly appreciate the work of your department and its leadership on this matter.

At the neighborhood potluck, it was lovely to see people so heavily using and appreciating the park. It was lovely to see the kids clambering all over the furniture and the corner wall. Only one time did they get excessive.

Clearly the neighbors I talked with agreed on ^{three} ~~two~~ things. All want work done on the park to make it a thing of benefit and value to residents. Almost all of the people who thought the matter out cherish the trees. Thoughts of uses which would destroy trees very heavily diminished in popularity when harm to the trees was pointed out. There also was a lot of agreement that the end near the Franklin Street sidewalk is reasonably successful.

I very strongly think that the minimum which should be done is brickwork on the ground in place of the asphalt presently defacing it. I think that appropriately filled planters belong around the edges, along the

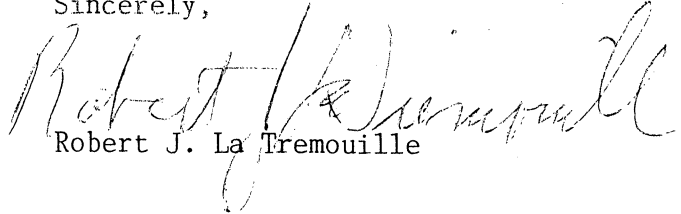
wall. I think that the back right hand corner should be completed. It is clearly intended for major plantings. Those plantings should be put in.

The middle is more difficult. One resident mentioned the idea of a fountain. That is an excellent idea. I have suggested filling in the area within the formal rectangle for plantings, with wells dug out for the trees. Park benches without legs might be placed on concrete walls. They may also be unnecessary.

I am not happy with the idea of major work which could destroy the present facility. It is my opinion that it needs to be completed. The idea of spending money to destroy something which could be nicely salvaged and then spending more money to put in something new is not an idea that attracts me.

Once again, thanks to you and your department for the good work. Please convey my appreciation to your officers.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Tremouille

cc: City Manager
City Council, formal, c/o city clerk
Mayor
City Council, informal, Council Office
Neighbors
Riverside Neighborhood Watch

Consent Communicaiton #16

S-353

A petition was received from Robert LaTremouille
addressed to Police Commissioner Pery Anderson
regarding the presence of Police officers
at the Franklin Street Park.

In City Council August 1, 1994

8/1/94 Placed on file