



City of Cambridge

32.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: Two incidents involving gasoline spillage have occurred in the vicinity of Harvard Square posing a threat to the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS: The first incident occurred on April 10, 1998 at 1394 Massachusetts Avenue when an automobile collided with a Sunoco truck and the second incident occurred on June 4, 1998 in the vicinity of Brattle and Craigie Streets when a tanker truck struck a sign post on the curb; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to submit a report, in writing, to the City Council outlining the details of these two incidents and the implementation of procedures to insure accidents like this will not occur in the future.

In City Council July 27, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

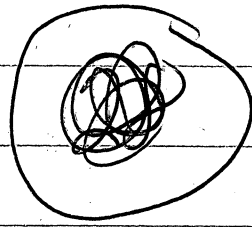
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Cancellation Journey

30



Whereas:

Two incidents of involving gasoline spillage have occurred ~~near~~ in the vicinity of Harvard Square posing a threat to the health and safety of the public; and

Whereas:

The first incident occurred on April 10, 1998 at 1394 Mass Ave ~~at~~ when an automobile collided with a Seneca truck and the second ^{incident} occurred on June 4, 1998 in the vicinity of Brattle and Craigie Streets when a tanker truck struck a sign post on the curb; now therefore be it

Ordered

That the Commission be and hereby is requested to submit a report, in writing, to the City Council outlining the details of these two incidents and the implementation of procedures to insure ~~to~~ accidents like this will not occur in the future

TT
see 7/11/98
at 12130

BRACKEN AND BARAM
33 MOUNT VERNON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

THOMAS B. BRACKEN
MICHAEL S. BARAM

(617) 742-4950
FAX (617) 742-4953

June 25, 1998

Robert Healy
City Manager
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

I am writing as counsel for the Harvard Square Defense Fund, Inc., regarding two incidents in and near Harvard Square involving the spillage of gasoline on City streets, which posed a serious threat to public safety. The first incident involved a collision of an automobile with a Sunoco truck at 1394 Massachusetts Avenue on April 10, 1998 which resulted in a discharge of gasoline. This discharge, which posed a risk of fire, necessitated the evacuation of several buildings and the suspension of train service at the MBTA Harvard Square station. Members of the HSDF who witnessed this incident believe, based on the markings on the truck, that it originated from a terminal outside the City and was headed for destinations also outside Cambridge. If so, it would seem that there was no legitimate reason for the truck to be in this heavily populated area.

The HSDF long has been concerned with large trucks traveling through and around Harvard Square as a short-cut through the City, which are not making local deliveries, which cause traffic jams and pose a safety hazard to the many people in the area. This was not the first accident caused by a trailer truck in Harvard Square and more and more of these trucks, especially oil trucks, are using Harvard Square as a bypass route. We sought information regarding the above incident from the Cambridge Fire and Police Departments as well as from the Sunoco Oil Company. The Fire Department report describing the incident does not indicate the origin or destination of the truck. Under cover of a letter dated May 1, 1998, Police Captain Breen provided me with a "sanitized copy" of the police report which does not show any origin and destination information either. The Sunoco Oil Company has not responded to my written request for such information.

On June 4 there was another incident involving a gasoline tanker truck which resulted in closing City streets and an emergency response by police and fire units. This incident resulted from the truck striking a sign post on the curb while trying to make a sharp turn from Brattle Street onto Craigie Street. The impact apparently damaged valves on the bottom of the tank spilling several gallons of gasoline onto

Craigie Street. Inexplicably, the driver apparently was not aware of the spillage and continued driving the truck to a gas station at the corner of Concord and Huron Avenues, leaking gasoline along Craigie and Concord Streets. When the driver belatedly discovered the damage, instead of reporting the incident, he returned to the cab of his truck where police officers found him eating a sandwich. To avert a potential disaster, the firefighters sprayed foam over the spilled gasoline and motor vehicles had to be detoured around the site. There is no apparent reason why the truck was using Brattle and Craigie Streets to reach a gas station at the corner of Concord Street and Huron Avenue.

The HSDF believes these are very serious matters and that it is important to obtain a full accounting of the events, including the information we have been seeking regarding the Sunoco truck accident, in order for the City to take measures to insure that such accidents do not occur again. Therefore, we urge you promptly to appoint an appropriate City official to undertake a thorough investigation of these incidents and to make a report available to the public so that appropriate action can be taken.

Very truly yours,



Thomas B. Bracken

cc: City Councillors
Truck Advisory Committee members
Amy Miller, Cambridge Chronicle
Ken Mcguire, Cambridge Chronicle
Charles Bahne, 224 Concord Avenue
Cambridge. MA 02138

TBB/kbt

KT

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

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*did we
pass a resolution
about this?*

#32

June 25, 1998

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City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

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Thomas B. Bracken

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Truck Advisory Committee members
Amy Miller, Cambridge Chronicle
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32.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 27, 1998

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Two incidents involving gasoline spillage have occurred in the vicinity of Harvard Square posing a threat to the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS: The first incident occurred on April 10, 1998 at 1394 Massachusetts Avenue when an automobile collided with a Sunoco truck and the second incident occurred on June 4, 1998 in the vicinity of Brattle and Craigie Streets when a tanker truck struck a sign post on the curb; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to submit a report, in writing, to the City Council outlining the details of these two incidents and the implementation of procedures to insure accidents like this will not occur in the future.

Consent Order #32 354CM

Councillors Toomey and Triantafillou re:
report on two gasoline spills and the
procedure to prevent similar accidents
in the future.

In City Council July 27, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED