



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMISSION ON HANDICAPPED PERSONS

McCusker Center
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Tel. T.D.D. 498-9000, Ext. 9509

March 9, 1983

Alfred Vellucci, Mayor
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Vellucci,

One of the broad mandates of the Commission on Handicapped Persons is to improve accessibility for handicapped persons in order to make possible their full participation in our community. Two fundamental requirements for accessibility are the existence of designated handicapped parking spaces and the presence of curb cuts at intersections and other strategic locations. Unfortunately, non-handicapped persons are not always sensitive to the access needs of disabled persons, and violations of handicapped parking regulations are common occurrences.

The Commission is attempting to identify and to address the problems associated with the enforcement of handicapped parking regulations. We have expressed our concerns to George Teso, Director of the Department of Traffic and Parking, and Anthony Paolillo, Chief of Police, and have requested that members of their respective departments enforce handicapped parking regulations vigorously and consistently. Because we received no feedback in response to our request, we are inviting Mr. Teso and Chief Paolillo to our March 24, 1983 Commission meeting.

In recognition of the seriousness of the access barriers that result when parking violations occur at handicapped-designated parking spaces and at curb ramps, other cities and towns across the state are adopting the local option of increasing fines for such violations in accordance with Chapter 644 of the Massachusetts General Laws. The Department of Traffic and Parking has not enacted this local option despite our appeals. We plan to reiterate our request that Cambridge adopt Chapter 644 at our March meeting.

The Commission seeks your support as we attempt to resolve the problems associated with enforcing handicapped parking regulations. We will inform you of the outcome of our March 24, 1983 meeting and, if necessary, will appeal to your office and the City Council should our upcoming meeting fail to produce substantive results.

We appreciate your ongoing concern for the well-being of all members of our community.

Sincerely,

Bob Alexander (G)

Bob Alexander, Chairperson
Commission on Handicapped Persons

cc. Cambridge City Council

17 S-147

Comm. from Bob Alexander, Chairperson, Cambridge Comm. on Handicapped Persons Re: problems of enforcing handicapped parking regulations.

3/21/83

P/Recd

OK

File

In City Council,

March 21, 1983