



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 498-9021

JAMES THADDEUS McDAVITT

Commission Chairman

ANTHONY G. PAOLILLO

Chief-of-Police Department
Commission Member

THOMAS V. SCOTT

Chief-of-Fire Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI

Commission Executive Officer

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: James T. McDavitt, License Commission Chair

RE: Awaiting Report Item on Special Buses

DATE: June 23, 1988

James T. McDavitt

Pursuant to the City Council Order calling for a report on Special Buses in Cambridge, in late 1986 an interdepartmental task force was formed, comprised of the City Manager, the Traffic Director, and the License Commission. In 1987, the issue of special buses was also fully discussed by the Cambridge Taxicab Advisory Committee, as that Committee was a broad based committee with members from city government private industry, and the general citizenry and as the issues of taxicabs and special buses are closely related. Moreover, during 1986 and 1987 the Chief Investigator for the License Commission compiled data on all known existing bus licenses being exercised in Cambridge.

One of the principal problems to be resolved was the 60-day limit for action by the City Council on special bus license applications. This limit has been set up by G.L.c. 159A. At times when more pressing problems have been before the City Council, the 60-day limit would expire, and the applicant would then receive the bus license from the State Department of Public Utilities. To resolve this situation, a new procedural system for bus license applications was set up by the City Council on March 14, 1988 when the Council passed Ordinance No. 1065, establishing a new Chapter 16 within the Code of the City of Cambridge. Article II of this new Chapter 16 calls for special Bus License applications to be submitted to the License Commission first, with a recommendation to go to the Council within 45 days. This allows for reasonable and timely action by the Council. The recommendation to the Council is one worked on jointly by the License Commission, the Traffic Department, and the City Manager.

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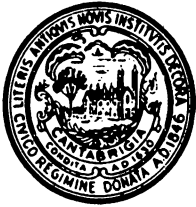
Robert W. Healy
June 23, 1988
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From a policy perspective, it is the opinion of the City Manager, the License Commission, the Traffic Director and the Cambridge Taxicab Advisory Committee that there are too many special bus licenses being exercised in Cambridge at the present time, with an inevitable exacerbation of Cambridge's traffic situation. It is therefore felt that no additional bus licenses should be encouraged. Instead, people should be encouraged to use the MBTA, existing special bus operations, existing cabs, and existing livery operations. Therefore, only a special bus applicant fulfilling a truly unique public need should be granted a new special bus license, and then only to the minimal extent necessary.

The State Department of Public Utilities under G.L.c. 159A continues to exercise review authority over local action on special buses. This could only be changed by statute. The annual license fee for a special bus is only \$10.00. Likewise, this license fee could only be increased by statute.

Please advise if there are comments or questions on this report.

cc: Police Chief
Fire Chief
Traffic & Parking Director
Maura Smith



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 27, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 11 regarding the growing number of special bus companies which are allowed to traverse the streets of Cambridge, I submit the attached report from the License Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

S-487

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 11
on the growing number of special bus
companies which are allowed to traverse
the streets of Cambridge.

In City Council,

June 27, 1988

6-27-88

Placed on file

C. W. J. Sullivan

MS

RF