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CAMBRIDGE MA.



January 14, 1997

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Milford, Conn. 06460
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Hon. Henrietta Davis, Chair
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: BICYCLE RIDING ON SIDEWALKS

Dear Councillor Davis:

For the past two years, I have written two letters to the Cambridge City Council pertaining to the dangers involved for pedestrians on the sidewalks in Central Square, especially. My letters actually referred to two personal experiences of my wife and myself, who escaped serious injury by the scarcest of margins. It was only my ability to move quickly (at age 80) and to assist my wife in moving on the second occasion which saved us, without question.

I feel most strongly that bicycles should not be permitted to be used on the sidewalks in busy squares such as Harvard and Central Squares. As a matter of fact, I know that there is a City ordinance which prohibits such action, but it is flouted with impunity.

I have heard of the rights of bicyclists, and I appreciate the fact that it is an inexpensive method of transportation and convenient, under certain circumstances. On the other hand, I believe that the pedestrian has the right to be protected from physical injuries and that the sidewalks are not to be considered as proper passages for bicyclists, many of whom could care less about the physical safety of women wheeling baby carriages, the infirm, or the elderly. My own two bitter experiences indicate that I was extremely fortunate in the past. I do not care to go through that kind of experience again.

From the point of view of developing Central Square as a viable place of shopping, sidewalk riding by bicyclists provides a deterrent for incoming pedestrians and certainly increases the danger of injury.

This letter is a personal letter, covering the experiences of a person who has been in Central Square for a great many years and who praises the wisdom of those who placed the original anti-bicycling ordinance into effect, and wishes that it would be implemented.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

Member of



Consent Communication #2

S-37

Communication was received from Carl Barron, transmitting a communication regarding bicycle riding not be permitted on sidewalks.

In City Council January 27, 1997

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