

To: The Cambridge City Council
From: The Residents of Farwell Place
Re: Conversion of Street to Private Way
Date: 20 June 1991

page 1 of 2
CITY CLERK
JUN 20 PM 1:50
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Farwell Place is a small dead-end street with five dwellings consisting of eight residential units, as well as property owned by Harvard University and the Christ Church.

The street has eight "resident" parking spaces. At the end of the street there is no place in which vehicles can turn around. Cars and trucks must back down the street, creating a hazard for the two nursery schools renting space from the Christ Church and the five young children who permanently reside on the street.

At the corner of Farwell Place is 51 Brattle Street, to which the Harvard School for Continuing Education is being relocated. This will place enormous additional pressure on our fragile residential neighborhood as more people -- Cambridge residents and now students -- search for parking spaces.

For the above reasons, we, the undersigned owners^{& OCCUPIERS} of residential property on Farwell Place, respectfully request that the City of Cambridge allow the conversion of our street to a private way, beginning at the property line dividing 10 and 12 Farwell Place and running to the end of the cul de sac. The residential unit, 10 Farwell Place, owned by Elizabeth Bartholet, has a driveway and garage and would not be included in the private way.

The first half of the street would remain a public way with its existing parking meters, allowing access to the parking lots of the Gutman Library and the rear of 51 Brattle Street.

Daniel Aaron

12 Farwell Place. Owner: Daniel Aaron

Persi Diaconis

14 Farwell Place. Owner: Persi Diaconis

Judy Bookwalter

18-20 Farwell Place. Owner: Judy Bookwalter

Olive Holmes

22 Farwell Place. Owner: Olive Holmes

Deanne Peterson

24 Farwell Place. Owner: Deanne Peterson

(more)

Kathy Spiegelman, head of Physical Planning for Harvard University, supports the conversion of the residential portion of Farwell Place to a private way, but said she must first obtain permission from higher authorities at Harvard before she can affix her signature to this petition.

The Christ Church has not yet been polled.

Although the signatures of all property owners on Farwell Place do not yet appear on this petition, it is our understanding that this petition will start the process of the street's conversion to a private way, in which all abutters will be notified and their comments sought.

Our first choice for this problem would be to have Farwell Place designated "parking for residents only."

To the city council concerning Farwell Place.

There are two additional points that I would like to mention. One is that two of the property owners on Farwell Place, Olive Holmes and myself, are single women. This means that if one is using the car after dark and cannot find a parking place on Farwell Place, one is forced to go down Brattle Street in search of a non-metered space; and walk back into the Square alone. Particularly after the events of this last spring this is something we don't feel secure doing.

Another problem involves the illegal parking of vehicles on the northwest side of the street. If there were a fire, the access route of the fire engine to the fire hydrant (at the end of the street, near Christ Church) would be compromised by the resulting extremely narrow passageway. The group of houses on Farwell place comprises one of the last remaining historic residential areas in Harvard Square; so this potential threat is not just to the property owners, but to the "memory" of a place.

Sincerely, with hopes the situation can be resolved,

Judy Bookwalter

17.

CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS

5-787

Petition received from Daniel Aaron, 12
Farwell Place be converted to a private
way or "parking for residents only".

In City Council,

June 24, 1991

*Referred to the
City Manager
Copy sent to City Mgr.
6/25/91 (de)*