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**Carol O'Hare**

**From:** Carol O'Hare [cbo1066@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2015 5:02 PM  
**To:** Cambridge City Council  
**Cc:** Richard Rossi; 'Lisa Peterson'; 'ooriordan@cambridgema.gov'; 'dwebster@cambridgema.gov'; 'dlefcourt@cambridgema.gov'; 'Doug Brown'; 'charlotte@karney.com'; 'Jan Devereux'; 'Carolyn Shipley'; 'Marilyn Wellons'  
**Subject:** City Council: Comparing Health & Environment Comm. Extensive Report #3 with Policy Order #3 re water hoses & billing reductions

As you know, I've long been troubled by what's happening and not happening to our city trees - planted, to be planted, replanted, re-replanted.... I hoped that the Sept. 16 Health & Environment Committee's hearing (with input from all the key DPW personnel, the dedicated co-chairs of the Committee on Public Planting and the public) would begin to develop holistic, workable ways to keeping our existing and new city trees healthy and to increasing our declining tree-canopy.

The Committee of Councillors **Cheung, Carlone, Mazen & McGovern** seemed to get a handle on this by eliciting a wide variety of ideas, approaches, programs, reorganizations, financing mechanisms, etc. at their 9/16 hearing. Much of this is documented in **Committee Report #3** on the City Council's agenda tonight. In addition to the testimony (especially from city and other professionals and experts) summarized in the Report, including 14 Attachments from the DPW, the Committee on Public Planting Co-Chairs and the public concerning "future public planting and maintenance issues" and methods for keeping our trees healthy instead of constantly replanting them. See Committee Report #3

That's why it's surprising to find narrowly limited **Policy Order 3 (Cheung, McGovern, Benzan & Kelley)** also on your Agenda tonight when many wide-reaching and more effective methods and tools were suggested and reviewed at the Committee hearing and included in their Report. The Policy Order only proposes distributing hoses and reducing property owners' water bills to encourage them to water their street trees. As to that proposal, I'd guess that the vast majority of street trees are planted near properties whose owners already have hoses and could afford the gallons-per-week cost of watering their nearby street trees. See Policy Order #3 @

- What happened to Councillor Cheung's order that was approved by the Committee recommending an additional city water truck?
  - What happened to getting more funding allotted for individual tree planting, coordinated maintenance and preservation, not just for trees planted as part of big improvement projects/contracts?
  - What about abandoning the bad public policy of allowing abutters to nix street trees beside their properties?
  - What about preserving mature trees, rather than axing them for projects like the Cambridge Common "restoration"?
  - What about an education campaign (like those for snow-removal and recycling) to explain the Do's and Do's of maintaining or "adopting" nearby street trees: Don't plant competing plants, Don't mulch too close to the trunk, Do weed, Do Water with How-To's, etc.?
  - What about increasing DPW staffing to focus on this worsening problem, evidenced by the data submitted by various people about the backlog of dead tree, stumps and empty tree wells not marked on the City Arborist's GIS map/listed in the city's tree inventory?
  - What about testing runnels as a means of getting more water to street trees?
  - What about tracking and fixing the methane gas leaks that kill trees?
- Etc.

*Carol O'Hare, 172 Magazine St.*

+ the following residents who agree with my "take" on this and also submitted comments and/or spoke at the Health and Environment Committee's 9/19/15 hearing

*Doug Brown, 35 Standish St.*

10/19/2015

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*Charlotte Carney and Fred Yalouris*, 41 Granite St.  
*Jan Devereux*, 255 Lakeview Ave.  
*Carolyn Shipley*, 15 Laurel St.  
*Marilyn Wellons*, 651 Green St.  
Cc: Donna Lopez for filing with the Official Record  
Other Cc's as listed above

10/19/2015

12

**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Carol O'Hare <cbo1066@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 18, 2015 5:47 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Farooq, Iram; Dash, Stuart; Paden, Liza; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** City Council: Please do not approve 4 sandwich board signs - Harvard Sq. Eye Care

Re: 10/19/15 City Council. Harvard Sq. Eye Care Applications 1-4 for sandwich board signs

Dear Mayor Maher, Vice Mayor Benzan and City Councillors:

Next up for signs: Harvard Square Eye Care requesting your approval for their four totally unnecessary, ugly sandwich board signs to be placed 7 days per week, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., on the sidewalks abutting their four establishments scattered throughout the city.

- Sandwich Board Sign #1 - 15 Belmont St.: **Applicant already displays a wall sign and a projecting sign.\***
- Sandwich Board Sign #2 - 198 Elm St., near Davis Sq.: **Applicant already displays a prominent wall sign.\***
- Sandwich Board Sign #3 - 19 Dunster St., Harvard Sq.: **Applicant already displays a window sign and a prominent projecting sign.\* This is a very narrow, parking-metered sidewalk.**
- Sandwich Board Sign #4 – 495 Massachusetts Ave., Central Sq.: **Applicant already displays a prominent wall sign.\***

I'm not going to catalogue all the reasons for denial. I'll just say that Harvard Square Eye Care already has more than sufficient signage to call attention to, identify and advertise the four establishments.

So, please just deny their applications to clutter our public sidewalks for any period of time with their proposed sandwich board signs. If you approve these, you must realize that more of these requests will surely follow.

\*Note: My report on the applicant's existing commercial signage is based on photos @ Google Street View.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Carol O'Hare  
172 Magazine St.

Cc: Donna Lopez: Please file this with the Official Record  
Others, as listed above