

4

Lopez, Donna

From: Sally Ackerman Eaton [sallyaeaton@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 4:54 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Manager; Lopez, Donna; Amos Charles; Bart Herskovitz; Brian Tavares; Bruce Arnold; Christine Manning; Corey Bollier; Dave Doolittle; Holly Eaton; Janet Patterson; Jero Nesson; Joan Arches; Jody Stoddard; Judy Bacher; Judy Sokol; Kathy Eckroad; Kip Eckroad; Kristen Greco; Lindsey Smilack; Marie Paquet-Nesson; Rebecca Loh; Richard Gawel; Sally Eaton; Sylvia Jacob; Terry Kay Epperson; Olga Vieira
Subject: Traffic Danger at the Corner of Russell and Mass. Ave

October 2, 2013
To the Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council,

City Hall

Cambridge, MA 02139

We residents of 2103 Mass Ave, 2107 Mass Ave, 2-6 Russell Street and 1 Russell Street would like to petition the city to take traffic calming steps for Russell Street in Cambridge. Russell Street is a route that many drivers take from other parts of Cambridge over to Davis Square and to Route 93. It is heavily used by automobiles, especially at peak traffic hours. Cars that are turning onto Russell Street from Mass Ave tend to accelerate as they are making the turn and they speed down the street. Many drivers are very aggressive and will honk if we residents slow down to park our cars. Cars usually do not stop or slow down when we are entering or getting out of our cars. A number of residents have found that side mirrors have been hit and broken off. Some residents have narrowly avoided a serious accident. According to Terry Kay Epperson of 1 Russell Street,

“Recently, my husband, our infant son in his carriage, and I were crossing Russell Street at the Mass Ave crosswalk when the driver of a left-turning car (that had been at rest when we started crossing) decided suddenly, without looking, to beat traffic - and he came within inches of hitting us, as we were in the middle of the crosswalk by then. WE were almost that accident. I'm very nervous crossing there now, as we had taken every precaution to cross safely.”

We consider this to be a dangerous situation and believe that it is just a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. There are a number of small children living in the buildings that are close to this intersection.

Traffic calming strategies have been deployed elsewhere in the city that we think can be effectively used here. Perhaps raising the crosswalk to a level higher than the road will require turning cars enter the street slowly. It is also important to keep cars from accelerating as they drive to the Orchard

Street intersection. Perhaps another speed bump should be installed at the Cambridge/Somerville line. Such traffic calming methods are very effective on Rindge Ave. near the school and may work on Russell Street as well.

There are several building projects that are scheduled to take place on Mass. Ave near this intersection that are bound to compound the problem.

We ask that the City Manager oversee a traffic study of this corner and street to determine the best course of action. We think this should take place in the fall when traffic will be typical.

We look forward to your attention to this problem.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Residents of 1 Russell Street:

Joan Arches (Joan.Archess@umb.edu)

Marie Paquet-Nesson (berne1995@aol.com)

Jero Nesson (artspace63@aol.com)

Janet Patterson (janethpatterson@comcast.net)

Corey Bollier (coreybollier@gmail.com)

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Lindsey Smilack (lindsey_smilack@hotmail.com)

Terry Kay Epperson (terry.kay.epperson@gmail.com)

Brian Tavares (briantavares@me.com)

Residents of 2107 Mass. Ave. and 2-6 Russell Street

Amos Charles (Amos.Charles@va.gov)

Bart Herskovitz (HerskB@aol.com)

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Residents of 2103 Mass. Ave.

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