

Lopez, Donna

From: Robert Freed [w-r-freed@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 9:22 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: FW: Petition Against Curb Cut Enlargement at 14 Soden St
Attachments: Petition Against Curb Cut Enlargement at 14 Soden St.pdf; Picture#1 by Applicants showing car half on walkway right-of-way.pdf; Picture#2 by Abutters from Google showing adequate driveway and ANY cut enlargement will remove 1 spot from St between 14 and 16 Soden.docx

To: Donna Lopez, City Clerk

Dear Ms. Lopez,

Regarding this Citizen Petition, and you can see whom it was **sent over one month ago**, nobody has officially acknowledged on behalf of the City that it was received.

Our first question is what is the procedure for acknowledging receipt of, and recording the submission of a Citizen Petition like this to the Council, the City Manager, and the Department Heads?

It is important to all of us on our street. We don't want to not be heard after these efforts.

Also, the second question we have, is that there are now four new Council members, what is the best way for them to be transmitted this Petition and its attachments?

On behalf of all the Petitioners, I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Robert Freed
16 Soden St, C (617)460-5213

From: W-R-Freed [mailto:w-r-freed@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 8:14 AM
To: council@cambridgema.gov; citymanager@cambridgema.gov; lisap@cambridgema.gov; rsinganayagam@cambridgema.gov; ooriordan@cambridgema.gov; sclippinger@cambridgema.gov
Subject: Petition Against Curb Cut Enlargement at 14 Soden St

To: City Councilors, City Manager, Deputy Manager, and Department Heads (ISD, DPW, Traffic)

Re: Petition Against Curb Cut Enlargement at 14 Soden St

Attached please find a Petition signed by ALL the abutters, representing the owners at 3 Soden Pl (i.e., 14R Soden St), 10 Soden St, 13 Soden St, and 16 Soden St.

Other residents of Soden St have also signed as they are in opposition to losing on-street parking where no issue had ever occurred before.

Also attached please find photos:

Picture#1 by Applicants showing car half on walkway right-of-way.

Picture#2 by Abutters from Google showing adequate driveway and ANY cut enlargement will remove 1 spot from St between 14 and 16 Soden.

Submitted on behalf of the Petitioners by:

Robert Freed

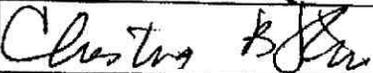
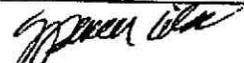
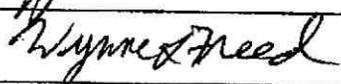
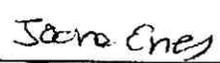
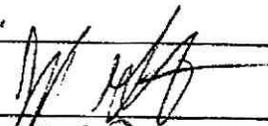
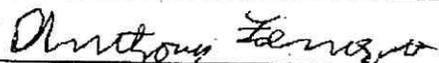
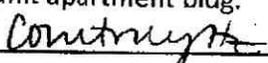
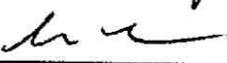
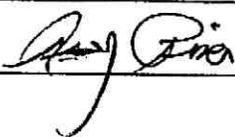
16 Soden St, C (617)460-5213

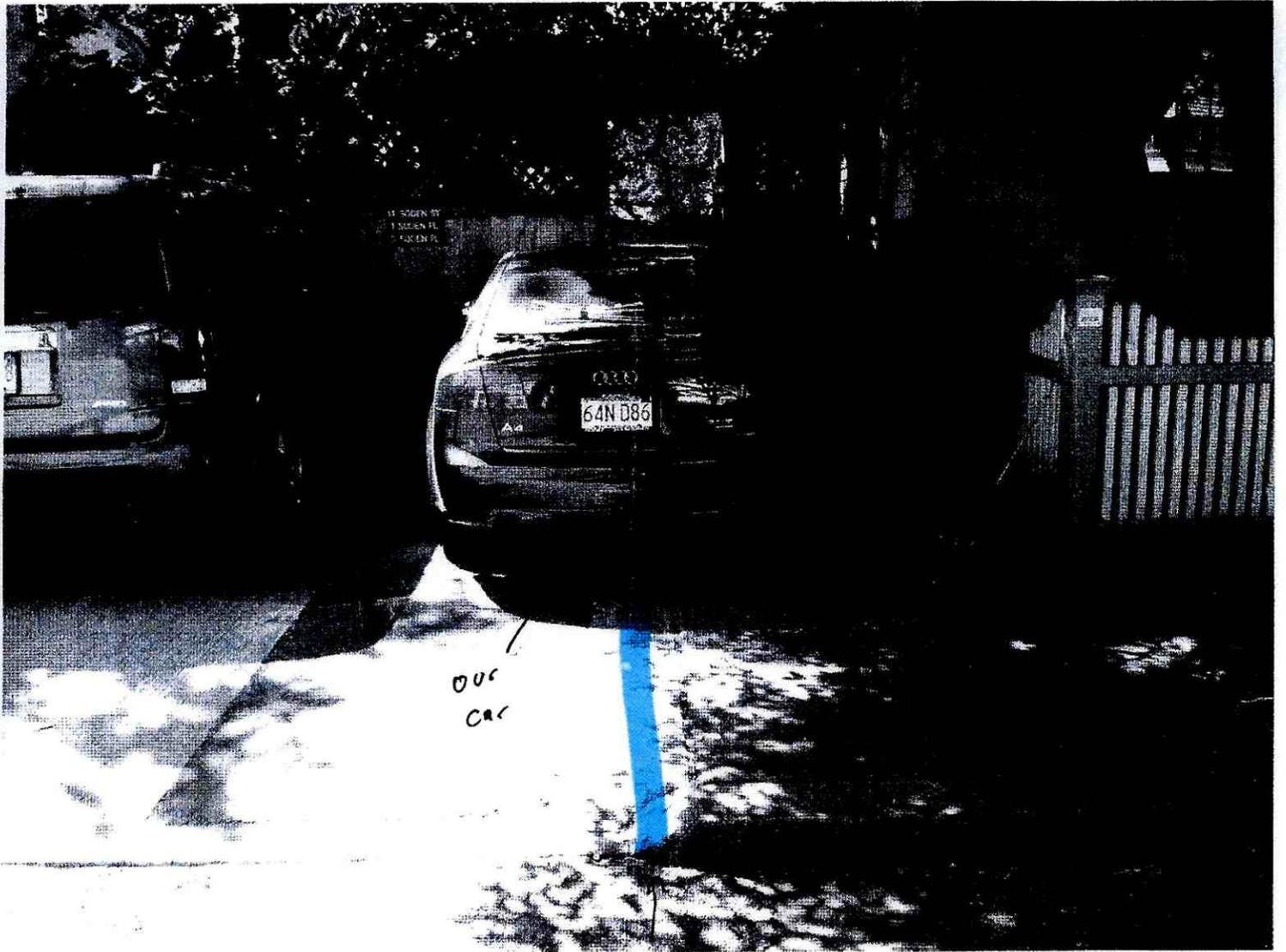
Petition Against Curb Cut Extension Application at 14 Soden Street, Cambridge, MA

We, the undersigned, are in opposition of the curb cut extension application for 14 Soden Street, which is currently pending approval by the City of Cambridge. We hope that this petition will urge the city to decline the request for the curb cut extension. We are all abutters or close neighbors of 14 Soden Street and oppose the curb cut extension request for the following reasons:

- Granting this curb cut extension request will eliminate one on-street parking space from Soden Street. There has always been room for two cars between 14 and 16 Soden Street, and this enlargement will not allow two cars to fit in this space anymore. Many residents of Soden Street rely on street parking for their vehicles, and this is a critical space on a small, two-way side street immediately off of Western Ave. Given the demand for parking on this small street, this spot is of critical importance to the residents of this neighborhood.
- The addition of a curb cut extension at this address does NOT add any off-street parking opportunity. This is a 4 foot curb cut extension request and to some abutters, the purpose of the curb cut extension was expressed as a need to accommodate a wider car in the current parking space at 14 Soden Street (which, as explained further in the next bullet, is not permissible given the property deed as a wider vehicle would block the existing legal easement), but this does not in any way remove any existing cars from the street. Additionally, it would seem that the width of one's car should be considered when purchasing a property— many of the current residents of Soden Street find that they must purchase cars that can be accommodated by the parking available to them and those of us fortunate enough to have off-street parking must specifically ensure that our vehicles can fit in our parking spaces, not vice versa.
- The 4 foot area requested for curb cut extension is directly in front of the walkway that runs through the property at 14 Soden Street. This walkway represents the legal, deeded right-of-way easement for 14R Soden Street (i.e. 3 Soden Place), the residents of which use this easement as the sole means of egress and ingress to their property in the rear of 14 Soden Street. This legal easement is explicitly addressed, and the location of the walkway is precisely described, in the deeds to the properties of both 14 Soden and 14R Soden Street. By eliminating the curb at the end of this walkway, the residents at 14 Soden would be encouraged to park on this walkway (and have distributed a photo to certain abutters showing just this situation – please see attached) and would thereby illegally reduce the accessibility of the property located at 14R Soden Street.
- Lastly, the curb cut extension is NOT necessary. The previous owner of 14 Soden Street, Joe Vera, who lived at this property for over 30 years, always parked off-street at this property with no hindrances or problems. In fact, he would request that those parking on the street between 14 and 16 Soden park as close to the existing curb cut as possible (where the requested extension would go) to ensure that two cars could easily park on-street between these two properties.

In light of these points, we, the undersigned, kindly ask the City of Cambridge to deny the application for the curb cut extension at 14 Soden Street.

Name	Address	Phone #	Signature
ROBERT FREED	16 SODEN #3	617 460-5213	
Pamela Wine	20 Soden #3	617-576-1523	
Christina Sreak	16 Soden St #2	617 492 8905	
Spencer Liles	16 Soden St.	(617) 860-8379	
WYNNE L FREED	16 Soden St #3	617-417-2755	
Joana Cnes	22 Soden #1	857-207-8892	
Maximilian Joch	22 Soden St. #1	857 207 8863	
JEFF Gilber	20 SODEN ST #2	443-600-0333	
Phil Gilbert	20 SODEN ST #2	301-693-3551	
IQBAL AHMED	16 SODEN ST #1	617-669-8710	From: "Iqbal Ahmed" <ekbal.ahmed@gmail.com> Sent: Saturday, November 23 Subject: RE: Curb cut Rob. Driving to NJ. Pls go ahead sign my name. Iqbal.
ANTHONY FERRARO	10 SODEN ST APT. BLDG.	617-864-7861	
Anthony is the owner of abutting 10 Soden St, the 48-unit apartment bldg.			
Courtney Hite	3 Soden Pl.	417-475-5268	
MARC LULANCA	3 SODEN PL	617-475-5268	
Raf Pina	13 Soden St	781-888-3101	



existing curb cut

Petition Against Curb Cut Enlargement at 14 Soden St

Spot on left is for 14R Soden St (i.e., 3 Soden Pl) and spot on right is for 14 Soden St. At right of right car is a deeded brick walkway to the rear free-standing home, 14R.

Note the white line on the street to the right that various neighbors have re-painted over the years so two cars can park between 14 and 16 Soden. This divides a 33' length. The City standard for one spot is 18' but 33' works for two. ANY less will remove a spot from the street as the rear-end of a second car will block 16's driveway.

The new owners of 14 have removed the fence and wish to drive forward to park cars in their yard where a waterfall and goldfish pond has been removed.

They can do that. But they just have to back carefully out their drive in a modest car, as we all have to do in Cambridge.

There is no need to widen the curb cut. Especially removing the curbing in front of the brick right-of-way to the rear unit. Doing so would remove a spot from Soden St for no-good-reason.

