

12

Memorandum

To: Mayor Maher, Vice Mayor Benzan and other City Councillors
Cc: Richard Rossi, City Manager; Donna Lopez, City Clerk – for filing with Official Record
Fr: Carol O'Hare and Walter McDonald, 172 Magazine Street
Date: November 21, 2014
Re: Councillor Carlone's Policy Order 0-2, 11/24/14 Agenda

As longtime (since 1969) Magazine St. residents, we're writing about Councillor Carlone's Policy Order. It provides the opportunity to tell you of our own experience of the 30-mph speed-limit at Magazine St (Glenwood). http://www2.cambridgema.gov/cityClerk/PolicyOrder.cfm?item_id=44958

Over the years, we've suggested reducing speed limits to 25 mph, just like all the comparable streets in our neighborhood. **Western, River, Pleasant, Pearl, Brookline and Sidney Streets ("Other Streets") all have officially reduced speed limits of 25 mph.** We've been told (most recently in October by now-retired Sue Clippinger): **"That's not an option"** because officially reducing speed limits is too daunting a process. Cambridge's 20- and 25-mph streets are listed here: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/Traffic/trafficregulations/schedules/2Schedule%20July%202014.ashx>.

As everyone knows, solving the ever-increasing speeding problem, one speed-bump/slow-or-stop sign/bump-out/amber-or-red light at a time, isn't working well enough. Here are some of our reasons, **using our own Magazine St. just as an example**, why we encourage the Council to consider how to calm traffic and reduce dangers by somehow reducing or, at least, encouraging reduced speed limits on a City-wide basis.

- Magazine St. is well-travelled bus, truck, auto, motorcycle, pedestrian and bicycle route in the Cambridgeport/Riverside neighborhoods, running between Central Sq. and Memorial Dr.
- Magazine St. is **the only 2-way street**. The Other Streets are all 1-way.
- Magazine St. **parking** is permitted on **both sides**. On a number of the Other Streets, parking is permitted only on one side, at least for part of the street's length.
- Magazine St.'s two MBTA bus-routes (#47 & #64), school buses and trucks often create traffic tie-ups, dodges, and generally dangerous situations.
- Magazine St. vehicles frequently execute all kinds of maneuvers to pass each other in the opposite direction. That's exacerbated in snow conditions.
- At or near our corner, there are regularly screeching-brakes and tire-squeals, indicating excess speeds.
- All of that presents an obvious challenge for bicyclists and pedestrians, incl. many school children from nearby Morse and Amigos Schools and shoppers who frequent MicroCenter/Trader Joe's.

Bottom Line: Shouldn't Magazine St. and other similar streets throughout the City have reduced speed limits, too?

To give further credence to this, we ask what, if any, follow-up there was to Policy Order 2009 #223, which was adopted and specifically requested the City Manager to take actions to "help reduce speeding on Magazine Street, including the Dana Park area"? "Councillor Decker, Councillor Davis and entire membership."

And, what about Councillor Simmons recently proposed speed-bump at Upton and Magazine Sts. (POR 2014 #335, 10/27/14 Agenda)?

Again, we stress that the too-high-speed situation on Magazine St., which we know too well, is simply our basis for urging the Council to consider this speeding problem from a City-wide perspective, whether as Councillor Carlone's Policy Order attempts to do, or otherwise.

Thank you for your help and advice. Thank you and thank you as always for your time.