



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Robert W. Healy, City Manager*

*Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

October 27, 2006

Vice Mayor Toomey  
Councillor Henrietta Davis  
Councillor Marjorie C. Decker  
Councillor Brian Murphy  
Councillor E. Denise Simmons  
Cambridge City Hall

Dear Vice Mayor Toomey, Councillors Davis, Decker, Murphy & Simmons:

In response to Council Order No. 5, dated 6/12/06, regarding forming a committee to set criteria for naming street corners and squares in the City, I am attaching a report of the City Manager's Public Dedications Committee, which consisted of Deputy City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson, Assistant to the City Council Sandra Albano, Director of Veterans' Services Bob Stevens, Executive Director of the Historical Commissioner Charles M. Sullivan and Assistant to the City Manager Nancy B. Schlacter.

The attached report includes the proposed procedure for applying for a public memorial and the criteria for consideration of an application for a dedicated public memorial.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
Attachment

The following is the procedure for applying for a dedication:

Persons seeking an application for a dedication should be referred to the Assistant to the City Council to obtain a copy of the City's criteria and instructions on how to submit the request for a dedication.

An applicant seeking a dedication should first review the criteria set forth below. If the applicant believes that the person they seek to honor meets the criteria, the applicant must submit a request in writing to a City Council member ("Sponsoring Councillor"), stating how their proposed honoree meets the City's criteria. The Sponsoring Councillor will submit this written request, by Council Order, to the City Council for referral to the Council's Public Memorial Committee (Government Operations Committee) for their consideration/approval.

**Dedication Recommended:**

If the request for a dedication is recommended by the Public Memorial Committee (Government Operations Committee), it will be returned to the Sponsoring Councilor for submission to the full City Council. If the honoree is KIA, the Assistant to the City Council will notify the Veteran's Director to assist in the dedication.

**Dedication Not Recommended:**

If the request for a dedication is not recommended by the Public Memorial Committee (Government Operations Committee), it will be returned to the Sponsoring Councillor with written reasons why it is not being recommended.

**Further considerations**

1. **If the applicant seeks a particular location for a dedication, City departments will review the requested location for its availability and appropriateness. Sponsoring Councillors should not promise a particular location for a memorial dedication to an applicant.**
2. **Dedications other than signs (i.e.: benches, trees, plaques and other infrastructure) will be paid for by applicant/requester at a price to be determined by the DPW. Such price will reflect only the actual cost of the acquisition, planting or installation.**

This policy recognizes that there may be persons within and without the community whose contributions in one area alone may not be very significant but whose overall contributions to Cambridge, the Commonwealth or the nation over a long period of time make the person worthy of memorialization by Cambridge.

The memorialization of a person shall be bestowed whenever a person is deemed worthy, without any consideration of the person's color, sex, age, religion, national origin or any other circumstances beyond the reasons cited for memorialization.

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The following are the criteria for the dedication of squares in Cambridge:

- **Military Service**
  - Killed in Action (KIA) (Gold Star) or
  - Honorably discharged veteran of the armed services of the United States who served during wartime.
  - Sign would include the word Veteran, the War(s) he/she served in, and any significant military decoration
  - Final discharge status to be checked and confirmed by Veteran Services Dept.
  
- **Significant contribution to Cambridge community as determined by Public Memorials Committee (Government Operations Committee).**
  - A person who has been active in civic affairs in Cambridge, whose life/contributions have significance to Cambridge history and are documented by city records, historical documents or newspapers.
  - Valuable and substantial contribution to the City in an official, civic, or social capacity, which sets them apart from normal civic participation in the affairs of the City. [Examples: Service in public office, either in an elected or appointed capacity]
  - Service as a leader of an active organization of the community, which contributes to the social well-being and fabric of their neighborhood or the City as a whole.
  - Distinguished careers by present or former residents who have achieved state or national fame.
  - Significant contributions that improved the quality of life, the general health or major development of Cambridge, the Commonwealth or the nation.
  
- **Performed an heroic or distinguished act completely without regard for personal safety and welfare for the common good.**
  
- **Worked in public service in Cambridge**
  - Meritorious and distinguished service as an employee of the City.
  - Distinguished public service to Cambridge, the Commonwealth or the nation.
  
- **Historical Significance**
  - Associated with important historical events, movements or patterns in American history, and significantly linked with Cambridge through birth, residence or participation in local affairs

**Drury, Margaret**

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**From:** Craig Kelley [CraigKelley62@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2010 4:15 PM  
**To:** Drury, Margaret  
**Cc:** Seidel, Sam; Toomey, Tim  
**Subject:** Councillor Kelley's comments on Dedication of places

Hi Margaret:

I will not be at the meeting about dedicating public spaces, so could you put this note in the minutes, please? Thanks.

Craig

I could support a naming policy, of street corners or gyms, that

1. Doesn't cost the City anything. If people want something named after someone, they should cover all costs, including City staff time for prepping for the meeting, putting the sign up and so forth.

2. Signs should not be placed without notification of abutters and abutters to abutters.

3. Simply having lived in Cambridge for a number of years is not justification enough to have a dedication sign. The honoree must have done something unique for the City, not simply retired from a City department or lived at the Corner for 60 years or some similar loose criteria. Having a corner named after you should actually mean something to people outside the immediate family.

However, rather than doing signs at all, I would suggest a centralized monument program, where people can have a plaque placed on a stone explaining who they were and why they were important to the neighborhood. The stone(s) would be big enough to handle a number of plaques. We could have these stones placed at a few places around the City, such as Rindge Field, Donnelly Field and so forth. People getting the plaque would pay enough to cover installation of the plaque and some base cost for the underlying stone.

Also, Servicemembers killed in the line of duty would get a corner paid for by the City that clearly states their branch of the service and that they were killed in action.

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**Drury, Margaret**

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**From:** Eve Sullivan [annals@MIT.EDU]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:08 PM  
**To:** Toomey, Tim (home); Seidel, Sam; Cheung, Leland; Decker, Marjorie; Davis, Henrietta  
**Cc:** Drury, Margaret; Kelley, Craig  
**Subject:** memorial signs (me again)

Dear Councillors Toomey, Cheung, Davis, Decker and Seidel Co-chairs Toomey and Seidel,

Because of another commitment I was not able to stay to speak at the committee meeting last week. The clerk Margaret Drury said that I could send a message to be entered into the minutes of that meeting. Here it is.

Thank you.

Eve

6/1/2010 To the Government Operations and Rules Committee

Dear Councillors:

As you know -- because I have spoken and written several times on this issue-- I believe that memorial signs have become a streetscape blight and are, as well, a wasteful, wrong-headed allocation of scarce city funds.

Maybe a sports analogy will help make my point. One of my sons works in radio in Atlanta and often attends Braves games there. He visited last weekend and went to see the Sox play. He had a terrific time and described, with great appreciation, how different it was from the experience in Atlanta, how the focus at Fenway was simply on baseball ...no bellowing announcer trying to rouse fans to cheer. If people wanted to cheer, they cheered. If they were quiet, everyone watched and enjoyed the game.

Driving down the streets of our fair city one's eyes are constantly assaulted -- maybe too strong a word? but I feel that my view is assaulted -- by signs memorializing citizens who have gone to their reward. May they rest in peace. Those signs, however, distract from others that deserve our attention, directional signs, traffic signs.

Driving and biking are enough of a challenge without unnecessary distractions and both are more enjoyable without them. I would like to be able to safely walk, ride and drive without seeing so many signs.

That is my general request. My specific request is for the Zani sign which appeared with no notice or explanation in front of my house to be removed at the earliest opportunity.

I very much appreciate your taking up this issue and trust that you will consider all the concerns that I and others have raised.

Oh, the Memorial Day parade was wonderful! I saw some of you there. It was fun.

Eve Sullivan  
144 Pemberton Street  
Cambridge 02140

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**From:** Kathryn Podgers (kathypodgers@yahoo.com)  
**To:** citycouncil@cambridgema.gov;  
**Date:** Tue, May 25, 2010 1:42:25 PM  
**Cc:** kathypodgers@yahoo.com; marilyn.wellons@yahoo.com;  
**Subject:** Fw: [Access\_Cambridge] City's Human Rights Ordinance not compliant with the ADA

Dear Mayor David Mahar, and City Councuillors. many of you may remember this email I sent to you, and my testimony In City Council about this, five years ago. Since that time I have had to file a number of complaints to FORCE the City to comply with the ADA and with Chapter 11 of the State Building Code. yet, the City continues to stumble along, ignoring and brushing aside it's duty.

In my role as a Community Access Monitor, I have identified for you, 14 areas where the City is in non-compliance, and where the City continues to violate both the ADA and Chapter 11. This is ongoing, pattern and practice, which discriminates agaainst a whole class of people, those with disabilities as defined by the ADA, and another class of people , seniors. I have already exhausted all local remedies, therefore, my only options going forward, is the City fails to take this seriously, would be to file a complaint with the DOJ or a lawsuit in Federal Court.

Please, I ask you, one last time, make copmpliance with the Civil Rights Act a priority, a City Goal, and set up a sub committee to look into this, so we can get MEANINGFUL compliance without further delay.

Sincerely,  
 Kathy Podgers  
 148 Pearl St  
 Cambridge MA 02139  
[kathypodgers@yahoo.com](mailto:kathypodgers@yahoo.com)  
 617 642 3154  
 May 25, 2010

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Kathryn Podgers <kathypodgers@yahoo.com>  
**To:** access\_cambridge@yahoogroups.com; Henrietta Davis <HenriDavis@aol.com>; Mar Decker <mDecker@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Anthony Galluccio <aGalluccio@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; David Maher <dMaher@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Brian Murphy <bMurphy@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Ken Reeves <kReeves@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Denise Simmons <dSimmons@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Michael Sullivan <mSullivan@ci.cambridge.ma.us>; Tim Toomey <TimToomey@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Mon, October 31, 2005 2:56:36 PM  
**Subject:** [Access\_Cambridge] City's Human Rights Ordinance not compliant with the ADA

Dear Mayor Sullivan, Vice Mayor Decker and City Councillors,

I am writing in response to the City Managers response to policy Order 0-51, his Adgenda Item #2 In City Council this Monday evening, Oct 31, 2005, at 5:30 pm.

Please see the section on "City Ordinances"...

Only one City ordinance is mentioned, The City's Human Rights Ordinance, and parts of it are quoted.

This is to inform you that this ordinance is not in complaince with the Civil Rights Act of 1990, otherwise known as The Americans With Disabilities Act, the ADA.

The City's Self Evaluation shoul have included all areas covered, and examined any problems identified. Why then, does the City's Human Rights Ordinance not comply with the ADA?

I spoke with the DOJ this morning about this. Of course the ADA superceeds local and State Law. However, when asked during the Candidates forum sponsored by the Progressive Democrats "If elected to City Council

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will you put in an order in City Council to bring all City ordinances into compliance with the ADA?" all of you who answered, replied "yes."

I now remind you of what new a candidate said, "You sitting City Councillors are there now, why wait for the election?"

Justice delayed is justice denied.

I like Rosa Parks will not continue to allow myself to be mistreated, and when the City's own ordinances discriminate against me, that is Institutionalized Discrimination.

Please end this discrimination at tonight's meeting. Please put in an Order, to bring the City's Ordinances into compliance with the ADA. Set up a committee at the City Council level where PWD's with the broadest range of experience can be engaged in a partnership, with policy makers, you, to correct these heinous injustices.

Sincerely  
Kathy Podgers  
617 642 3154  
<http://fromtheport.blogspot.com>

City of Cambridge  
**Commission for Persons with Disabilities**  
51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732  
617/349-4692 voice · 492-0235 tty TDD · 349-4766 fax

Michael Muehe  
*Executive Director/ADA Coordinator*

Carolyn R. Thompson  
*Disability Project Coordinator*

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**To: Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager for Human Services**  
**From: Michael Muehe**  
**Re: Response to City Council Order O-51— ADA Compliance**  
**Date: October 13, 2005**

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I am writing in response to City Council Order O-51, which reads as follows:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide the City Council with a status report regarding the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all relevant aspects of City work, policies and ordinances.

**City Ordinances**

The City's Human Rights Ordinance (Cambridge Municipal Code § 2.76.120) includes disability as one of the 13 protected categories, along with race, color, sex, age, religious creed, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, family status, military status, and source of income. As currently defined in the ordinance, "disability" means "any actual or supposed physical or mental handicap of an individual, other than the state of being presently legally incompetent." Therefore, people with either mental or physical disabilities are protected from discrimination under the City's Human Rights Ordinance. Indeed the Human Rights Commission has a history of receiving and investigating complaints from individuals with both mental and physical disabilities pursuant to enforcement of the ordinance.