



City of Cambridge Police Department

TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3300

FAX
(617) 349-3320

WEB
www.cambridgepolice.org

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

March 6, 2013

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: Council Order No. 11, dated February 13, 2013

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to the above council order request to work with the appropriate city staff to provide a report to the City Council detailing how the City of Cambridge, working in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will insure that oversize vehicles not be allowed to travel along Memorial Drive so that accidents similar to the sad crushing of the tour bus of prospective Harvard Students do not occur again.

The Department has contacted DCR. Effective immediately, DCR will implement an outreach program to moving companies (U-Haul, Ryder, Budget), hospitals, and universities, by providing letters, and posters in regard to the restrictions. This will include Memorial Drive along with other restricted DCR roadways.

In addition, DCR intends to start an outreach program specifically directed to GPS companies. There are different types of GPS devices, Commercial grade GPS devices and Consumer grade GPS devices (which is the typical device purchased for personal use). The goal of this campaign is to ask the GPS companies to have all GPS devices function the same way. Currently only Commercial GPS devices have built in roadway restrictions for height, however Consumer GPS devices do not. Most large professional commercial vehicles have a Commercial grade GPS.

DCR states most of the issues come from moving trucks/vans that students most commonly utilize when they move into the college/university for the new school year. Daniel Hunt, Director of Government Affairs for DCR indicated that DCR continues to strive for the appropriate balance of signage and public safety, and that they consistently work with the MBTA and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) on road detours to insure that unauthorized vehicles are not re-routed inadvertently onto restricted roadways.

Additionally, The Cambridge Police works closely with the Massachusetts State Police on enforcement issues on State controlled roadways of which Memorial Drive is one.

The Department will issue a directive to our units, both in Operations and Traffic, to monitor Memorial Drive during their tour of duty for vehicles that are over height and in violation of these restrictions.

If further information is required please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "H".

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

RCH/kb