



*City of Cambridge
Police Department*

TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3300

FAX
(617) 349-3320

WEB
www.cambridgepolice.org

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner

Richard C. Rossi
City Manager

To: Richard C. Rossi, City Manager

From: Robert C. Haas, Police Commissioner

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2015

Ref.: City Council Order #10, dated September 28, 2015

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this response is to address City Council Order #10, dated September 28, 2015, whereby you were requested to consult with the Police Department, Traffic Parking and Transportation, and the City of Somerville to consider solutions to wrong way traffic from South Street in Somerville.

We have reviewed the situation and put together the following overview of the measures taken in response to this order:

- The problem was occurring on the segment of Willow Street between South Street in Somerville and Cambridge Street. More precisely, the segment of Willow after the access road for Roosevelt Towers continuing to Cambridge Street.
- We began receiving calls from residents this summer about wrong way operation, particularly during the morning commute. Upon investigation, we determined that the problem was related to a construction project on South Street in Somerville that was shutting-down Hunting Street. This sent a large volume of traffic down Willow Street attempting to access Cambridge Street. This problem was alleviated when the construction project no longer required the closure of Hunting Street.
- In the course of investigating the problem we discovered that the existing "Do Not Enter" sign on Willow Street was bent and was not clearly visible. We contacted Traffic and Parking and the sign was restored to its original position.
- Additionally, it is recommended that a second "Do Not Enter" sign be added on the left hand side of Willow to make it more obvious that this is a one way segment. The City of Somerville was also asked to install a sign on Willow at South Street indicating "no access to Cambridge Street". It is anticipated that both of these changes will be implemented over the next two weeks.

- Officers from the Traffic Unit have been conducting frequent park and walk assignments at this location to enforce the “Do Not Enter” sign. Officers have been directed to be visible at the top of the street to deter violations and not position themselves on the Cambridge Street end. Because of this approach we have only issued a small number of citations.

We will continue to monitor this location and issue citations as necessary.

Please let me know if you have any questions or additional concerns. I can assure you that we are working proactively to identify traffic impacts and to work with residents to and maintain measures that are effective in calming traffic and enhancing the neighborhood environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert C. Haas
Police Commissioner