



ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

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June 12, 2009

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.  
City Councillor  
Cambridge City Hall

Dear Councillor Toomey:

Please find attached a response to Council Order No. 24, dated 5/11/2009, regarding motorcycles and scooters parking on City sidewalks, received from Police Commissioner Robert C. Haas.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mec  
attachment



# City of Cambridge Police Department

TELEPHONE  
(617) 349-3300

FAX  
(617) 349-3320

WEB  
[www.cambridgepolice.org](http://www.cambridgepolice.org)

Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

June 2, 2009

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RECEIVED  
JUN 4 AM 11:02  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Re: City Council Order No. 24, dated May 11, 2009

Dear Sir:

As requested, I am responding to Council Order No. 24, dated May 11, 2009 regarding motorcycles and scooters parking on city sidewalks.

Motorcycles and scooters are subject to the same parking rules as cars and will be tagged if found parked on a city sidewalk. Scooters fall into two categories; those with large engines are required to have a license plate from the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) and are subject to the same regulations as a motorcycle, and those with a smaller engine that receive a decal.

A scooter that fits the definition of a motorized bicycle (Moped) and receives a decal is regulated by M.G.L. c. 90, §1B. The decals have numbers associated with them, however, the owners name and address is not readily available to the Police Department or to Traffic Parking & Transportation through the RMV database used to enforce parking or moving violations.

If a scooter is parked on a sidewalk blocking access the Police Department will remove it and the owner will be responsible for the cost of towing. However, if a scooter or bicycle appears to be abandoned, but not obstructing a sidewalk or bike rack, DPW has a practice in place where a compliance officer will place a 72 hour notice on the scooter or bicycle. After the 72 hour period, the compliance officer will have the bike or scooter removed, placed in storage for 30 days, if it is not claimed it will be disposed of or auctioned.

Although the City supports the use of scooters as they are inexpensive to operate, in order to secure a parked scooter it needs to be locked to something, whether a pole or other parking option. With the potential increase of a variety of means of transportation, we will need to

increase the parking options as was accomplished in Harvard square last summer. The bicycle parking was increased and there was an increase of bicycles parked properly.

In order to prevent scooters from being parked unlawful or that impedes pedestrians, we need to have both enforcement and parking options for the scooters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Haas".

Robert C. Haas  
Police Commissioner

RCH/bk



## CITY COUNCIL

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### Policy Order Resolution

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O-24  
IN CITY COUNCIL

May 11, 2009

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

**WHEREAS:** Residents have expressed concern over motorcycles and motor scooters being parked on the sidewalk; now therefore be it

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department to clarify the city's policy of parking motorcycles and motor scooters on city sidewalks and report back to the City Council; and be it further

**ORDERED:** That this matter be referred to the Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee.

In City Council May 11, 2009  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

A true copy;

ATTEST:-  
D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

**REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE.**

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT B

**From:** blueglassfall [blueglassfall@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2009 7:55 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Donna  
**Cc:** Kelley, Craig (home)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Scooter and Motorcycle Parking discussion on Tuesday, 29 September 5:30 PM at City Hall  
**Attachments:** scooters on sidewalks.pdf

Dear Craig and City Council,

While the below discussion is relevant, I am much more concerned about the safety of those using scooters/mopeds or even just bicycles while on actually on Cambridge streets. Scooters, mopeds, bikes are having to swerve to avoid deep potholes and uneven pavement. Often the choice is to swerve into the direction of parked or moving cars. This is something the city very much needs to address.

Also, there is additional concern about Mass Ave at Windsor Street.

This is a very bad area. I have been "tapped" by a car" and on 2 other occasions almost wiped out by school buses making a sharp right turn. Because there is no light and corner is extremely tight it is hard to predict when the bus is going to turn or even which way. In all likelihood the bus drivers have their attention on the timing of the turn with traffic and the queue of bike riders consistently in the mix. If a pedestrian is some much as one inch off the sidewalk they'll get clipped by the rear end of the bus that is making the sharp right often quickly because more traffic is coming.

Others working in the area have had similar scary experiences.

Thank you,  
Lahra Tillman

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Craig Kelley <[craig@craigkelley.org](mailto:craig@craigkelley.org)>  
**Date:** Sep 21, 2009 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** Scooter and Motorcycle Parking discussion on Tuesday, 29 September 5:30 PM at City Hall  
**To:** Craig Kelley <[craig@craigkelley.org](mailto:craig@craigkelley.org)>

Folks:

You may be interested in this Committee meeting next Tuesday on the parking of scooters and motorcycles on sidewalks. The attached note from the Police Commissioner does a pretty good job of highlighting the issues involved- scooters and smaller motorcycles need to be locked to something to be secure, but they can become more of an obstacle than bikes given their larger size and riding motorcycles over the sidewalks to a parking spot can alarm some people. On the other hand, using on-street parking for things that can park elsewhere may not be a wise use of resources.

Anyway, if you have thoughts on this issue, come to the meeting or email the Deputy Clerk at [DLopez@Cambridgema.gov](mailto:DLopez@Cambridgema.gov) to put something in the record.

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENTS

**From:** thom3@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 27, 2009 2:14 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Scooter and Motorcycle Parking discussion on Tuesday, 29 September 5:30 PM at City Hall

Donna, could you register this version of my letter as the official letter? There are some edits and I removed the additional attachments and comments.

Thanks

Tom

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Hi Donna, I wanted to weigh in on this matter and say that as a cyclist, resident of Cambridge and member of the bike committee, that scooters and mopeds should not be allowed to utilize public bike rack facilities. The reasons being: 1. they take up a lot more space than a bicycle and disrupt nesting. 2) they can be a hazard, as they can still be hot and people getting close to them to park a bike might get burned, plus in some areas, it encourages riding a motorized vehicle on the sidewalk.

I think an alternative solution for all two wheeled motorized transport should be considered and for the interim, allow them to park separately on the sidewalk

or as a motorcycle parks.

Tom Meek

Transportation, Traffic and Parking Committee  
Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

September 29, 2009

Re: Scooters and mopeds

To the Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Cambridge Pedestrian Committee would like to take the opportunity to comment on the consideration of mopeds and motorized scooters on sidewalks.

Clearly there are challenges to figuring out how to manage all forms of transportation in our busy streets and sidewalks. As more and more people choose to walk, bicycle and take public transportation, more emphasis than ever should be placed on preserving pedestrians' priority in the already often limited public space of sidewalks.

Sidewalks are used for many functions: for street furniture (lighting, meters, signs, poles, bollards, benches, trash receptacles, recycling bins, etc.); outdoor dining and café seating; street trees and other greenery; store displays, etc. Not only do sidewalks carry necessary public functions, they are the city's most important public space, where most of outdoor community life takes place. Motorized vehicles are bulky and intrusive, and take up space that has higher and better uses. In addition, many of our sidewalks are not wide enough to accommodate these vehicles without becoming inaccessible to people in wheelchairs or wheeling strollers. There is also an issue of numbers: a few scooters scattered around the city may seem no big deal, but in greater numbers they would unmistakably dominate.

We feel that it's important to be consistent in the message that other than motorized wheelchairs, motorized vehicles belong on the street, not the sidewalk. The suggestion to allow some motorized vehicles to park on the sidewalk while others must park on the street has the potential to create confusion and would set an undesirable precedent for future sidewalk usage as newer forms of motorized transportation appear in our city.

We suggest a study be undertaken to consider best practices and innovative solutions from other places that support the use of scooters and mopeds while protecting sidewalks and the interests of pedestrians. The cities of San Francisco, Toronto, Philadelphia, Chapel Hill, and Columbus, OH, have all developed systems and policies to support moped and scooter use and parking on public streets and parking lots. If indeed people are choosing mopeds and scooters over cars, then using street space to create designated parking for these vehicles makes sense.

In sum, we recommend that a system be created to accommodate motorized vehicles such as scooters and mopeds on the street or in parking lots, and that they not be permitted to park on the sidewalks.

Very truly yours,  
Amanda Trombley, Chair  
For the Cambridge Pedestrian Committee