Sonia

Eric O'Brien
30 N. New St.
Dover, DE 19904

October 21, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

There's something wrong with all the suspicious loitering and loud car music in downtown neighborhoods, and there's something wrong with several of Dover's police officers in what they've said about it and in what they're NOT doing about it. This past weekend 2 officers came to my door to accuse me of calling in numerous false complaints regarding the above (I had just called twice regarding strangers loitering on Fulton St.). Now I'm scared to call at all -- is that what The City wants? I've also been told to deal with the strangers on the streets myself if I don't like it -- by dispatchers and patrolmen; and within the past few months I've been told to move -- by several different dispatchers and officers. Just like The City allowed the bad guys to force the closing of downtown ACME, prevent normal citizens from walking around the block, and force out all the previous homeowners who have moved to date.

With Dispatchers and cops telling me to move, to deal with strangers myself thus jeopardizing my safety (even further), and threatening to arrest me because they don't see what I see or hear what I hear, it sounds like The City is promoting the demise and takeover of downtown neighborhoods. No? Well then why doesn't Internal Affairs do something about these Dispatchers and officers? Because it's covering for them that's why. How about the cop that recently told me they can't do anything about the loud car music because what you're actually hearing is the reverberating after-effects of the music, not the music itself, so it can't be considered loud music? How about the suspicious tenants @ 29 N. New and how they got smart with a State Weatherization worker when he came to my house? The City seems to be running some kind of secret rental program to hateful, problematic people who are forcing normal people out of neighborhoods -- all of you should know about it. How about all the attached notes? Is this any way to live?

It seems that The City's (police's) sympathies lie with the suspicious loiterers taking over the streets rather than with the normal, working, law-abiding people being forced out of their homes. The City not ending these problems is just as bad as the problems themselves. If we need new laws and ordinances, make them; if the judges @ Court? are to blame (for dismissing cases), as a couple officers have stated over time, meet with top judicial personnel and solve it; if Smyrna just keeps letting criminals back out (back to our downtown streets), talk to them about their "Corrections" not working; if there have been a few isolated incidents of police misconduct, do something about them so it doesn't look like a cover-up and like that's the way the whole police force thinks. And I, just a plain citizen, should not be having to say all this, or call in the same complaints every week for 10 years, or write dozens of letters to city officials. All of

this should be being done by a City worker already charged with such responsibilities ... and already being paid for them.

I don't see how the police have any bargaining power at all in your contract negotiations, when our downtown neighborhoods continue to have the same problems. People move away, call their legislators and come to meetings like these because the police aren't dealing with the daily / nightly problems on our streets (otherwise, why move, and why come here?). And civic groups and neighborhood watches are formed because the police aren't ending problems themselves. The police should be happy to have a job period, esp. one making over $30,000.00, and they should be ending all problems referenced herein, and if they need help doing it THEY should be the ones going to our legislators, writing these kinds of letters, and forming their own task forces, to be able to end problems, rather than putting the responsibility of that extra effort on the general public.

The one bargaining chip the police have is that if they weren't there we'd have chaos and mayhem. Well of course, and everyone appreciates them for preventing that much. But if we're still being forced out of our homes, meaning that downtown Dover is an intolerable place to live, then isn't there still a serious problem that's not being solved?

This letter may seem more appropriate for just the police, but they are a part of your criminal justice system, and they have been blaming the rest of the system for their inability to end our street problems (judges, courts, laws), so this letter is relevant to your agency (esp. since going directly to a police supervisor to keep things respectfully low-profile has not been working . . . for 10 years).

We should not need a civic group to influence the City's police work; The City should be solving known problems automatically as daily business as usual -- it's their job. Maybe someone here can help motivate them.

Eric O'Brien

10-21-03
p.6

Summary

I submitted a similar letter at one of your previous meetings, and the State Police representative, whose expressed concern I appreciate, told me to log times so the police will know when to look for problems. Well, that hasn't worked so what now? It seems like a simple case of neglect of duty -- you either write a ticket or you don't, and if you don't then you're not enforcing the law which is what you were hired to do. We all appreciate Dover Police's attention to vice, but vice crimes are not what's forcing people to move. What forces people to move are the daily, nightly repetitive little things, like noise and loitering, loud congregating, same problems day in and day out, having to close windows and run fans to sleep because of strangers and cars on the streets all night long -- these need more prioritization. You should be idling loiterers and checking ALL rentals for unlawful tenants -- it's like a foreign occupation going on.

Sonica

Early This Afternoon

(10-21-03, 12:40p.m.)

Extremely loud car boss music outside of my house; could be ½ block any direction.

Scared to call police because I didn't want to get arrested and then not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Is this the police force you know? Work with? Work for? Be proud of? Well it's the image some of the public has, and you all should look into all problems in this submission and come up with a "meeting-of-the-minds" conclusion. Are you going to continue to allow the takeover -- the forced displacement of decent residents -- or are you going to stop it?

Then advertise your decision so people will know whether to move to Dover or not. [12:51p.m. another loud car beat pass]

(12:55pm - called police on prostitutes/strangers on Fulton trespassing/loitering)

DRAFT

DRAFT

NOTICE
SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP

A G E N D A

November 12, 2003 - 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. - Caucus Room - City Hall - City of Dover

Public comments are welcomed on any item and will be permitted at appropriate times. When possible, please notify the City Clerk (736-7008 or e-mail at Jgreen@dover.de.us) should you wish to be recognized.

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

2. Police Department Complaints/Code Enforcement Issues
   A. North New Street (Eric O'Brien)
   B. Governors Avenue (Fran Savin)

/jg
S:\ClerksOffice\Agendas&Minutes\Committee-Agendas\2003\11-12-2003-Safety.wpd

* Ref. abandoned survey several years back -- why? -- so bad realized couldn't fix? That's from years of neglecting problems.

1. 11-7-03: called Clerk's office to confirm; asked who Fran is -- said she had some complaints with parking problem . . .

2. Councilman Truitt has been telling me about his neighborhood's "watch" group, and how someone will walk around, reporting anything abnormal -- his example ~~twice~~ now has been sidewalk cracks

3. Parking and sidewalk cracks are NOTHING -- these minor problems do not drive people to the rear of their homes or force people to move away. Suspicious strangers loitering day and night, prostitutes and homeless and transients using public streets as their playground, and middle-of-the-night noise congregating in front of rentals, & car music 24/7 ARE forcing people out of their homes.

THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OR THE DELETION OF ITEMS, INCLUDING EXECUTIVE SESSIONS.

10/28 - 11/11
2003

TUE, 11-11-03
10:00 a.m.

3 more total strangers loitering in front of 27 N. New (Joe Burden rental)

11-11-03 Entry

Dover is being overcome by so much vice that noise, loitering, prostitution and suspicious persons complaints seem trivial (to police)

This needs changed because it's these "trivial" problems that are forcing people out of their homes (& jobs).

TUE, 11-11-03
9:00 pm

After remaining in rear of house for 3 hours during dinnertime decided to go to front living room to watch TV; At exact time I entered room, a very loud bass beat car music went by; also ½ dzn kids trespassing on 33 N. New porch

TUE, 11-11-03
12:05 a.m.

Continued late night noise, loitering, front of 29 N. New and 18 N. New, prostitute, loud talking, car bass music, bicyclists, open drinking (tall guy, sweatshirt) and the "vibe" it'll continue all night.

Police drive-by to this call ↗, drove right by the tall guy in red sweatshirt w/ open beer (reminder; it's after midnight).

Instead of a beer (watch guys) looking after an entire neighborhood, there should be one responsible person for every property -- if not absentee owner/landlord then a tenant (for trash, noise, loitering). Legal Accountability

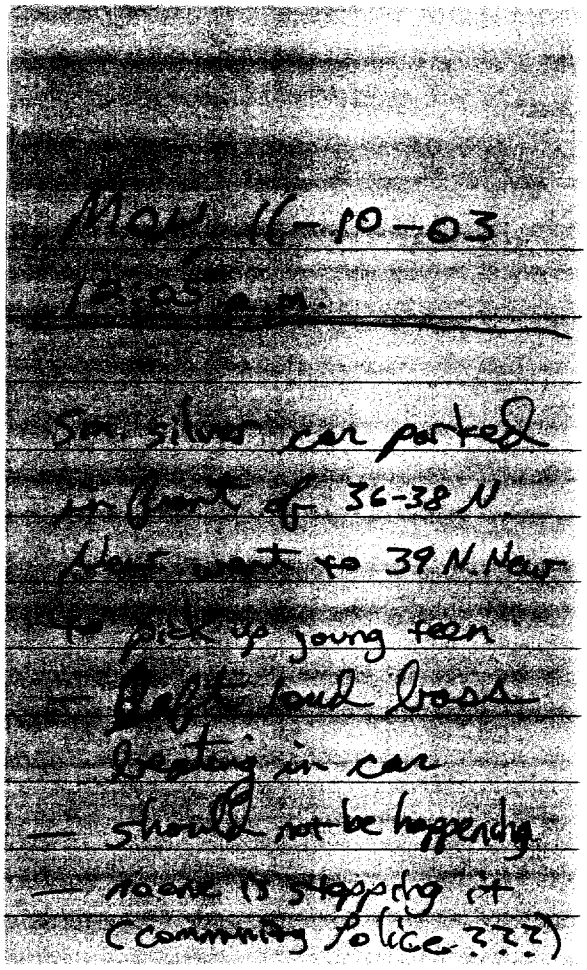
SUN, 11-9-03, 10:05 pm

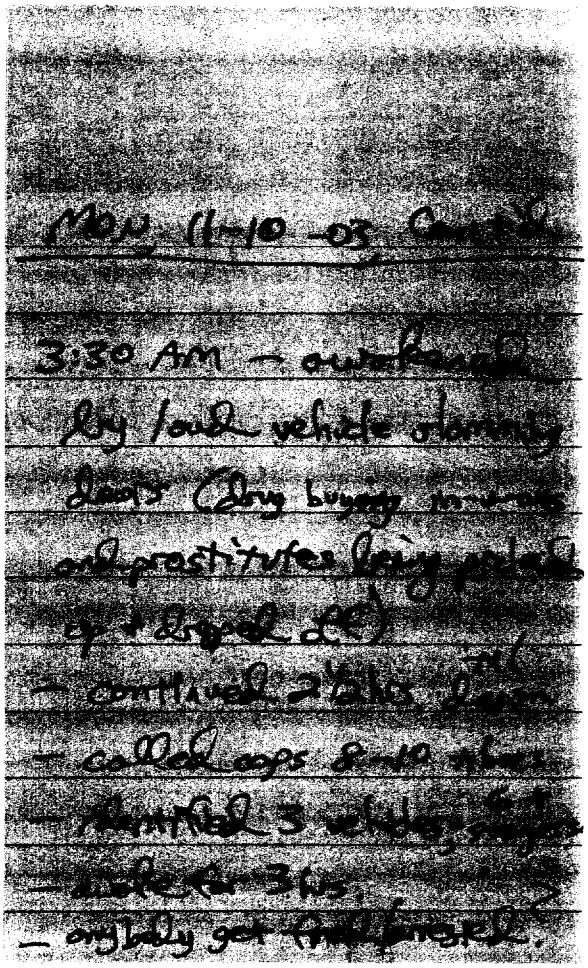
Example of how bad neighborhood is:

On the short 3-4 minutes it took for my relatives to get into their car to leave after visiting (1x per yr visit, ind. 13 & 15 yr. old girls), a crackhead prostitute just had to yell at a passing car (the gray Toyota minivan); the vehicle stopped in street right next to my relatives; prostitute was yelling @ driver, cussing, etc. - loitering prost. - repeat minivan - stop. in street

Fact is ...
- normal life, commonsense, and basic laws
- prostitution, drugs, abnormal, noise

One speaking, one warning





WED, 11-5-03

31 N. New St.

1st male teenager appeared (walkey)
- black Iverson jersey

- 2nd, 3rd + 4th soon to follow?
- loitering front of property next?
- loud bass music too?

WED, 11-5-03 > 1:00 p.m.

DF 296.560

2 white guys, 1 light black
- visited 29 N. New
- house that yards in 3 brown bags from trunk
- old high school buddies?
- right
- another stronger male visible at tenant

MON, 11-3-03
Late Night — Middle of Night
Appr. 3-4 A.M.

Awakened by very loud bass beat car music driveby
- city should put a hidden officer in unmarked car middle of night, then sue driver for the O.T.

SUN, 11-2-03
12:25 a.m - 12:40 a.m.

about 15 loud car bass beat drive-by's, in a 15-minute period
- unreasonable
- cops allowing
- why?

Within about a month's time there have been 3 different vehicles parked behind Fulton Deli
- a flatbed truck
- a pickup
- now a big white car (11/2/03)

why's that?

FRI, 10-31-03
11:00 a.m.

2 Black females sitting on front steps of 31 N. New, a newly-vacated house
- who do these people think they are to trespass like this?
- The City must not grasp scope ...

FRI, 10-31-03
11:05 a.m.

Single black lady moving in to 31 N. New
- let's see how long it is before there are 3 teenage males loitering on porch @ midnight...

10-29-03 D. Post

Charles A. Massey

Services for Charles A. Massey, 65, of Dover were held Saturday, Oct. 25, at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, Dover. Mr. Massey died Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003, in Dover.

Mr. Massey was born Oct. 12, 1938, in Dover, son of the late William "Ducky" and Hazel Stevenson Massey.

He was educated in the public school system of Dover, attending Booker T. Washington School.

Mr. Massey joined the U.S. Army Reserve, where he served for five years. Later, he joined the Dover Streets Department, where he worked until retiring in 1995.

In 1969, he married Corrine Scrivens, adding a wife and three stepchildren to his large extended family of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Massey was a rather quiet man, who went about his work and daily functions without a lot of fuss. He was a friend to his neighbors on North Queen Street, especially those who needed a helping hand. He was quick to mow a lawn or run an errand whenever he saw a need.

When he was not at work, he enjoyed leisure time with a very special four-legged friend, Bobby. For 12 years, Bobby, the toy poodle, was a loving, faithful companion. The two were well known by the North State Street and Wesley College communities, where they took their daily morning strolls. After the little dog became ill, the walks continued with Mr. Massey carrying his furry buddy in his arms. They were an inseparable pair, and he sorely felt Bobby's death one year ago.

Mr. Massey was a member of an unofficial Neighborhood Watch team for his block. As a disruptive counterculture began to infiltrate the area, he became concerned about the safety and welfare of his [illegible]. He joined forces with other concer[illegible] heir street. He regularly [illegible]d a steady surveillance [illegible].

In additio[illegible] death by a brother, Pau[illegible].

In additio[illegible]ed by three stepchildren [illegible]., Darryl G. Scrivens of [illegible]s of Dover; a stepdaugh[illegible]ldorf; three step-grandcl[illegible] Jakesha N. Scrivens, both of Hartford, Conn., and Julian L. Scrivens of Waldorf; and three step-great-grandchildren, Trenton, Jazmyne and Jada, all of Hartford.

African-American ALSO calls it a "counterculture"; I said "subculture"— same thing. Why op- set w/ that term?

Mr. Massey also is survived by two devoted brothers, William "Sonny" Massey and Harold Massey, both of Dover; two sisters, Amelia Dudley and Geraldine Durant, both of Dover; two brothers-in-law and the wife of one, James Durant of Dover and Gilbert and Shirley Scrivens of Philadelphia.

He also is survived by two sisters-in-law, Elizabell Massey and Bernice Wilson, both of Dover; three aunts, Pearl Grace of Wilmington, and Marian Winder and Courtney Stevenson, both of Dover; a devoted, special friend, Alice Brown of Dover; his mother-in-law, Viola E. Scrivens of Dover, with whom he shared a warm and caring relationship; a godson, Melvin "Butch" Harris III of Dover; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Police

Three sought for attempted murder

Dover Police are seeking three men in connection with an attempted murder.

According to police reports, the incident occurred at 11 p.m. Oct. 23 between Dover Park and the Manchester Square Apartments. The 20-year-old male victim was jumped by three men who beat him on the head and body and then stabbed him several times in the neck and body.

The victim, whose name was not released by police, was taken to Christiana Hospital in Newark where he is listed in serious but stable condition.

One of the three suspects has been identified as Jason Davis, 23, whose last known address was 148-G Willis Road, Dover. Davis is known to drive a tan Mazda and is frequently seen at the University Courtyard Apartments near Delaware State University.

The identities of the other two men are still unknown.

The investigation into the incident is continuing.

Dover clothing store robbed

Dover Police arrested two men in connection with a Sunday night robbery at a local clothing store.

Police Capt. Ray Taraila said the incident occurred at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the T.J. Maxx store on Route 13. Store employees confronted the two after spotting them leaving the store without paying for a number of items. The suspects assaulted the employees, a 38-year-old woman who suffered puncture wounds to her face and back when she was hit with a studded bracelet.

One of the men, later identified as Reginald Clark, 18, of the 400 block of Arnold Court, was caught at the scene with the assistance of a third employee.

The other man, later identified as Brandon Gattis, 17, of the 700 block of Slaughter Street, got away but was arrested later by Dover Police.

The two were each charged with first-degree robbery and second-degree conspiracy. Clark also was charged with marijuana possession after a small amount of the drug was found on him after his arrest.

Clark was sent to the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna in lieu of $7,500 secured bond. Gattis is pending an appearance in Family Court.

Two arrested in drug raid

Two local men have been arrested on a number of drug charges following a raid at a local apartment complex.

Capt. Ray Taraila of the Dover Police said the raid was conducted Oct. 23 in Building 950 at the Whatcoat Apartments off Saulsbury Road. Officers from Dover's Drug, Vice and Organized Crime Unit and Safe Streets program made the arrests after contacting the two men.

One, whom Taraila identified as John L. Clark, 19, of the 100 block of Kirkwood Street, was found to be in possession of a small amount of crack cocaine, drug paraphernalia and a concealed .38-caliber semiautomatic handgun.

The second man, identified as Tyree L. Lockett, 19, of the 800 block of Woodcrest Drive, also was found with drug paraphernalia. He also was wanted on a number of bench warrants.

Clark was charged with possession with intent to deliver cocaine, possession of cocaine within 300 feet of a park, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a concealed deadly weapon, possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, resisting arrest and menacing.

He was sent to the Delaware Correctional Institute in Smyrna in default of $28,500 secured bond.

Lockett was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia as well as the bench warrants. He also was committed to DCC, in lieu of $2,400 secured bond.

Man robbed on Reed Street

Dover Police are investigating a Sunday afternoon armed robbery.

According to police reports, the incident occurred at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in front of 411 W. Reed St., Dover. The 18-year-old victim was approached by another man, known only as "Jeremiah," who displayed a handgun and demanded money. The victim turned over his cash and cigarettes before the suspect escaped.

Two burglaries reported

Dover Police are investigating two weekend burglaries.

The first burglary occurred between 4:45 p.m. Oct. 24 and 5:20 a.m. Oct. 27 at Dover Leasing, located at 443 Pear Street. The burglars broke a window and entered the building, stealing a small amount of cash, a Sony video recorder, a cordless telephone and assorted snack foods.

The second incident occurred between 7:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at a home in the 200 block of W. Reed Street. The burglars got into the home through an unsecured window, causing damage to the interior. A small amount of money, three microwave ovens, baby clothes and diapers were taken.

State buildings burglarized

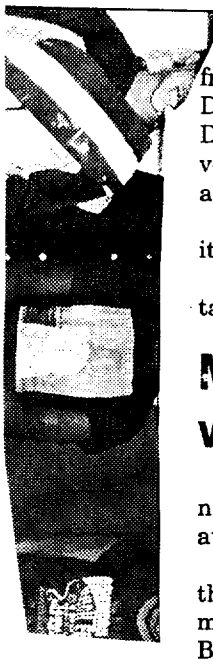
The Capitol Police are reporting two separate incidents involving break-ins at state-owned facilities.

Kimberly Holland Chandler of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security, said the first break-in occurred some time between Oct. 11 and Oct. 14 at the Department of Labor offices in Carroll's Corner. Several computer systems, a calculator and a nylon laptop computer bag were taken, Holland Chandler said. The burglars were unsuccessful in their attempts to take

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

Center in Smyrna in default of $29,000 secured bond. ... hearing Oct. 31



ditional computer equipment, she said.

The second break-in occurred during the same time frame when someone cut through a chain link fence at a Department of Transportation maintenance yard in Dover. A cell phone was stolen from one maintenance vehicle, while soldering equipment was taken from another vehicle.

Holland Chandler estimated the total value of the items at $4,200.

Anyone with information on the thefts is asked to contact the Capitol Police at 744-4380.

Man charged with kidnapping

An 18-year-old Dover man has been arrested on kidnapping and other charges after assaulting a woman at Delaware State University.

According to Lt. Kenneth Balke of the Dover Police, the incident occurred at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 24 near Tubman Hall on the DSU campus. Police later arrested Bruce E. Worthy Jr. of the unit block of Grays Lane, Magnolia, in connection with the incident.

The woman, who is a student at the university, said she had broken off a relationship with Worthy the day before. According to her statement, the woman was leaving her dormitory room when Worthy asked her to come to his car. When she refused, Worthy grabbed her by the shoulder of her coat, telling her to come with him. When she refused, he grabbed her by the neck, causing a scratch.

Going up to Worthy's car, the woman saw another person, who was not identified, sitting in the driver's seat. Worthy pushed the woman into the back seat of the car and got into the car with her. The driver then started driving around campus. Worthy demanded she hand over something out of her backpack, and upon her refusal, she said Worthy began to beat her, causing a bruise to her left eye.

The two continued to struggle in the car until the vehicle finally stopped. The victim said Worthy grabbed her feet, pulled her out of the car and then drove away.

Worthy was charged with second-degree kidnapping, first-degree reckless endangering and third-degree assault. He was released on $17,000 unsecured bond.

Camden man arrested on drug charges

A Camden man was jailed after police searching his home found more than 40 grams of cocaine.

According to court reports, the arrest came at around 6 p.m. Oct. 21 at a home in the 1700 block of Thicket Road, Camden. Probation officers looking for a probation and parole violator searched the home and discovered 44.42 grams (1.55 ounces) of powdered cocaine, two boxes of .22-caliber ammunition, numerous items of drug paraphernalia, a knife with a 3 1/2 inch blade and three marijuana plants.

State police troopers arrested the home's resident, William P. Sexton, 47, on a total of nine charges, including trafficking in cocaine, possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony, possession with intent to deliver cocaine, maintaining a dwelling and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sexton was confined at the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna in default of $29,000 secured bond. He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Oct. 31.

cc: Dawn Melson

RECEIVED

OCT - 8 2003

Mayor/City Manager

October 6, 2003

City of Dover
Attention: Anthony DePrima
P.O. Box 475
Dover, DE 19903-0475

Dear Mr. Mr. DePrima:

I did received your letter dated September 8, 2003 and wanted to take time to thank you for the reply. I understand the Parking Authority probably did not have the funds to include Wesely College in this survey however I do feel it would solve some of our questions and problems if it were to be done in the near future. Wesley tells me that they have Nine Hundred parking spaces. I will not have the time to count each and ever parking space on campus, however I find it hard to believe that they have this many. Once they decide to build the next new dorm they will eliminate another parking lot. This problem just goes on and on with out the city researching the parking problems before permits are issues.

Secondly, my concern was with the student housing licensing. In January 2003 the council passed the new ordinance requiring the property owners to supply two off street parking areas for student rentals. I believe that they were suppose to supply those within a six months time frame. It is now October of 2003 and I only see where one house on my block has installed one parking area. The one area was all the city required him to put in because he owns one half of a garage. In the thirty-eight years I have lived on this block that garage has always been used as a storage shed. If indeed the city believes that he can use this area as a parking space than make the property owner open it up so the student can use it as a parking area. I as well as the city inspections office know this is not possible. Other than this one property no other properties has complied to the parking area issue. The inspections office also said that the properties located in our back alley had to stone their students parking area. As of today the yards are still mud puddles. Nothing has been done to these properties. I asked Dawn for a list of student rentals and she said that they did not know where the student rentals are located and would not know until December. If this was not possible why didn't someone in the inspections department speak up when the issue was being discussed.
I meat with Ron and Randy in their office one day and at the time I showed them pictures of all the problem houses in my block only. Ron said that he had made contact with the property owners and advised them that they had to bring their homes up to meet city code. As of this date several of the projects still have not been completed. Ron is having the house located next to me painted (228 North Governors) and said it would be completed by the middle of August. It's now October and when the homeowner called to see when the company would be back to finish the project Ron was very upset that she called to ask such a question since she was getting it done free. He did not have to do this project free he just needed to inform the owner that she needed to bring the house up to code. She said she didn't ask for a free paint job but now that they have started she wants it finished.
I just feel as through the inspections department has not done the job that the council said they should of done. I do sincerely believe that the council will see the property owners that fought for this new ordinance start showing up before council to see why it has not been carried out.

Once again thanks for your time and concern on these issued and look forward to an update.

Sincerely,

Fran Savin

c/copied ✓

City of Dover

RECEIVED
OCT 30 2003
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

October 29, 2003

Mrs. Fran Savin
226 N. Governors Avenue
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Mrs. Savin:

Thank you for your letter dated October 6, 2003. I would like to respond to some of your questions and give you a general update.

1. The Public Works Director is working on a scope of work for a parking study around Wesley College. The purpose of the scope is to get an estimated cost from a consultant. Once we have the cost, we will have to determine how to pay for the study.

2. You are correct that only one parking space has been constructed as a result of the ordinance. I checked with the Planning and Inspections Department, and staff does not have any other documented cases of owners putting in parking. In the one case where the owner was given credit for a garage, the owner has agreed to empty out the storage material and actually use it as a garage.

3. Regarding putting stone in parking areas, the inspectors were never given the official okay by the Director (or current Acting Director) to start permitting stone. I have talked with them, and they are going to start telling owners that they can install stone parking areas for now, but they may have to pave in the future. This should help.

4. We have mapped known student housing and have delineated the areas within 500 feet. The office staff is now screening rental permit applications and will not issue rental permits for student housing within 500 feet of existing student housing. The mapping shows that there are very few areas left in the RG-1 zone where student housing would be permitted. Please note the bulk of rental housing permits will be issued in December and January. By then, we will have a more detailed screening process for compliance with the ordinance in place.

5. Regarding the property at 228 North Governors Avenue, Mr. Coburn expects the property to be completed in the near future.

I am sorry that you are not happy with the progress of implementing this new ordinance. Please keep in mind that it was a new and untested ordinance, and the timing may not have been ideally suited for immediate implementation. The person who authored the ordinance is no longer with the City.

Please do not hesitate to keep me advised of your concerns. I may be reached at (302) 736-7005 or by e-mail at tdeprima@dover.de.us.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY J. DEPRIMA, AICP
City Manager

AJD/tlk

cc: Mayor and Council
Dawn Melson
Jerome Cooper
Ron Coburn

RETURNED TO: Safety Advisory Copied m/c/cm
MEETING DATE:

RECEIVED
OCT 30 2003
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

October 27, 2003

City of Dover
Attention: City Council President
P. O. Box 475
Dover, DE 19903-0475

Dear Mr. McGlumphy:

This is my second follow up letter regarding the ordinance that was passed in January of 2003 which required all property owners that rented to college students to provide two off street parking areas. I am very unhappy as to how this new ordinance has progressed. I haven directed my concerns to the Council, to the Mayor, to the City Planners office and the Inspections Department and still have seen no action being taken for these property owners to comply too this ordinance. I ask why did we as tax paying citizens waste nine months of our time and yours if indeed the city is not going to enforce it once it was passed?

My second concern is the up keep of the properties within the city. I attended a meeting held by the Inspections and Public Works Department at the City Hall. At the meeting it was stated that all residents within the city limits who wanted to park behind their properties would have to comply too installing a driveway on their property and it would be of legal size. I addressed this issue and even gave the Inspections Department pictures of the properties within my area showing that these residents have actually turned their back yards into parking areas. We now have mud parking areas. Why has this not been addressed. I read recently that the Dover Police Department are issuing Ten Dollar parking tickets for parking on the grass at Shuttle Park. I understand that this is city property, they planted the grass and now that it looks nice they want it to stay that way. I agree with this One Hundred Percent. What I don't agree with is double standards. You can't turn grassy areas that belong to the city into parking areas but it's ok if you turn your back yard in my area into a mud puddle by parking every single day on the grass until you have no grass than you call it a driveway. I say grass is grass regardless of where it is. The city doesn't want their park to turn into a slum area any more than I want the area I reside in to turn into a slum area. The same rule should apply everywhere. If resident want to turn their back yards into parking areas fine but, the city needs and has the power to say you must install a legal size drive way and put down chip stone or some type of material which is used for driveways.

Today, October 27, 2003 I read an article in the Delaware State News that the Inspections Department is short of help. Is the department short of help or could the real issue be that the people working in that department just don't hold the qualifications that are required to perform the work that is required of them? It seems like we have lost a lot of good people out of that department within the last couple of years. Could it be that these highly qualified people just got tired of carrying everyone else's load as well as their own? I venture to say that their are people working in that department today that don't hold the qualifications that is

required to do the job but, because the city had no one else to move into the position they took the next best thing. Its still no excuse for not doing and following up on inspections of city properties.

As a tax paying citizen I see my street turning into a slum area real soon if the city does not require these property owners to bring their properties up to city code. I ask you or any one from the Inspections Department (and I have made this request several times) to ride through the alley behind the 200 block of North Governors Avenue. On a average day it looks like the city dump. Backyards have become parking lots, trees limbs that fell during the last storm and no one has cut the tree up so the city can haul it away, trash over flowing, garages need to painted, rain gutters need to be re-hung from the last storm and etc.. These problems exist because the city of Dover let them happen. For example how do you put four or five students in one house and give them one trash can? The property owner should be required to provide two trash cans at college rental properties. The city can do this when the owner applies for a rental license. Home owners say I can't afford to paint my garage so the city say's ok. The next day they are restoring a car in that same garage. If they have the money to restore a car they could afford two gallons of paint. The problems go on and on because no one takes action. Let me add a little humor to this letter. After reading this letter I am sure that most of you are saying, "this lady just needs to sell and move out of the area". Well think again. My house if brought and paid for, I raised my two children here and its now home to my five grandchildren and I am not going anywhere. I will however keep pushing the issue that the city is not being forceful enought with the property owners in our city. Take a look around your area has it become a slum area? I am sure the answer is NO because the people who have the power won't let it become one. If one of your employees makes a complaint about their area you can bet a inspector is at the site by the next day and the problem it taken care of . This is all I am asking of that same department.

Thanks for your time and I hope to see some improvement and to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Fran Savin

Fran Savin

cc: Mayor & Council copied
Dawn Nelson ✓
Jerome Cooper L.Jm
Ron Coburn

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

RECEIVED
NOV - 5 2003
Mayor/City Manager

October 31, 2003

City of Dover
Attention: Mr. Anthony DePrima
P. O. Box 475
Dover, DE 19903-0475

Dear Mr. DePrima:

I received your letter today dated October 29, 2003. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to give me a general update on my concerns. I am sure you will receive a copy of my letter which I sent to the City Council President this week regarding the enforcement of the ordinance. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your general update.

1. I appreciate the fact that the Public Works Director is working on a plan to conduct a parking study around Wesley. What I don't understand is why the city didn't include that area in the last study. Now we probably have to pay for some company to give us a cost to do another study and this time include the Wesley area. Wesley College didn't just become a parking problem so I don't understand why the city didn't see the importance of including them in the past studies. Double work and expense if you ask me.

2. You said I was right when I stated only one property owner has constructed one parking space since the new ordinance was passed. I work full time but I do try to make sure I am correct when I file a complaint. In this case you say the owner has agreed to empty out the storage material and actually use it as a garage. My question to you is WHEN? He has had the parking space in along time but I don't see that he has turned the storage garage into a parking area. How long is the city giving him to comply? I do believe that the Inspections Department told him he has to clear the storage area but it's another thing to enforce it! The ordinance stated they had six months to comply. It has now been nine months.

3. I don't believe when the ordinance was passed it stated what type of parking area they had to install. I don't believe stone or paved was mentioned. I see this an excuse why it is not being enforced rather than a fact. I do know one property owner told me he had received a letter from the Inspections Department telling him that he had to pave the drive at his rental property. The city sent him a second letter telling him he didn't have to pave it he could use chip stone. As of today he has did neither. I don't understand why the Inspections Department would tell the property owners that then can stone for now but may have to pave in the future. Look's like a double expense for the property owner. Once again make a decision stick with it.

4. I am pleased that the city has mapped known student housing. You state that the bulk of the rental housing permits will be issued in December and January. I have a current copy of the rental requirements for the city. If a more detailed screening process will be taking place to ensure that the new ordinance is being enforced I guess that would mean that the current rental requirements would change. I am anxious to see a copy of the new rental requirements. I will stop by and pick up a copy.

5. In response to Mr. Coburn reply that the property located at 228 North Governors Avenue should be completed in the near future. That will be a wait and see. Mr. Coburn also told me that it would be done by the middle of August. I do know that the homeowner was very unhappy with the way he talked to her when she called to inquire when the company would be back to finish so she got her niece in New York City to call the city for some answers. Mr. Coburn stated that these men who were painting her house were not getting paid. This I don't believe at all. I have been an office manager for a construction company for fifteen years and our company has done a lot of free jobs for DNREC. My point is that at the end of the week I paid our men regardless of what job they were working on. The company may very well be doing this job free but I don't believe that his men aren't getting paid. I believe most business men write this off as a donation come tax time. His men certainly can't. I will be waiting for that future date.

In closing let me assure you that you are correct in saying I am not happy with the progress of implementing the new ordinance. You are also correct when you say the person who authorized the ordinance is no longer with the city. Who is to blame for that, not me. I do know that Dawn Melson was acting city planner during the nine months we were working on this ordinance. If she had any concerns or issues with the enforcement of this ordinance she should have spoken up then. It took nine months of my time and a lot of other peoples time to get this ordinance passed and I won't let up on the issue until the Inspections Department of the City steps up to the plate and starts to enforce it. If the city is going to continue to grow than changes have to take place. Old ordinances that were effective ten years ago are no longer effective today. How much money is the Public Works Department spending in and around the Cecil Street area and for what? You can have all the nice sidewalks and streets you want but if you don't require the property owners in the same area to keep their properties up to meet city code what do you have? What a waste of the Public Works Departments money.
Thanks again for the general update and I hope to see some improvement soon.

Best Regards,

Fran Savin