

*The Advocates Group*  
PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

P.O. Box 3901  
Portland, Maine 04104

(207) 797-6077

July 15, 1997

Robert Ganley, City Manager  
City Hall  
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Mr. Ganley:

The attached petition is being presented to let you know how the people on Stevens Avenue feel about the construction project now going on here. Here's how the petition came about.

I was in Augusta all day on Thursday, July 10, and returned in the evening to find "NO PARKING" signs in front of my office and all along the street.

The next day, an ugly and imposing asphalt curb appeared in front of my office, along with other similar unsightly and dangerous obstacles further down the street.

On Friday, July 11, I spoke with several of my neighbors on Stevens Avenue and discovered that their dismay over this project was similar to mine.

The following morning, therefore, I wrote up the petition and over the week-end personally visited and interviewed property owners and residents all along my end of Stevens Avenue.

Without exception, every person I spoke with eagerly signed the petition and thanked me for my efforts.

Offices at 801 Stevens Avenue, Portland, Maine

The pastor of the Stevens Avenue Congregational Church, who also lives next door to the church, is in Canada on vacation. However, On Sunday morning, July 13, I visited the church, which is across the street from my office. Before I was able to speak with anyone about the "project", one of the deacons made an announcement, during the morning service, deploring it and requesting that members of the church call their elected representatives on the city council to protest and to request that the mound of asphalt in front of their church be removed.

After the service I was able to speak with sixteen of the church members, all of whom signed the petition. I believe all who signed are residents of the city as well as members of the church.

On Monday, July 14, I contacted several other persons on Stevens Avenue who were not available on the week-end. These included Dr. John Hayes, of Hayes Chiropractic Center at 804 Stevens Ave., Richard Brown, manager of the Park-Danforth Apartments at 777 Stevens Ave., Paul Theriault, manager of the Bouyea-Fassette Bakery, 832 Stevens Ave., and Sister Edward-Mary, principal of the Catherine McCauley High School at 631 Stevens Ave., All these people, as well as others on their staffs, signed the petition without hesitation.

Sgt. Eastman, on duty Monday afternoon at the State Armory at 772 Stevens Avenue also signed the petition, telling me that it was now more difficult for large military vehicles to get into the driveway at the Armory, and that the Armory needs the parking in front of the building

Persons interviewed in this survey offered comments and observations which included the following: What about the snow plows in winter? Emergency vehicles, fire-trucks and ambulances are being slowed down and have trouble getting through. They've taken all our parking and given us an obstacle course. It makes it dangerous for bicycles and pedestrians. What stupid thing will city hall waste our money on next. We need an elected mayor!

Some of these curbs filled with water during the rains Saturday night, prompting one creative resident to suggest that the city might bring in some ducks, and we could have nice little duck-ponds down the middle of Stevens Avenue.

I include this just to give you an idea of the climate.



I can testify that all the names on the attached petition were personally obtained by me, and that I personally visited each of the addresses listed. I can also testify that I found absolutely no support for the Stevens Avenue project, so called, and found not a single person who lives or works on Stevens Avenue who does not want the project abandoned and the obstacles removed.

The signers of the attached petition represent sixteen separate Stevens Avenue addresses and two businesses at Morrill's corner on Forest Avenue next to Stevens Avenue. If I had the time, I'm certain I could obtain many more signatures.

I'm sure you will agree that this matter deserves your immediate attention. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Earl C. Mercer".

Earl C. Mercer  
801 Stevens Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103

\*\*\*\*\*PETITION\*\*\*\*\*

Date: July 14, 1997

To: Robert Ganley, City Manager  
City of Portland, Maine

We the undersigned residents and property owners of Stevens Avenue in the City of Portland hereby petition you, the City Manager, and the Department of Public Works to cease and desist from any further construction of the kind engaged in during the week of July 7 through July 11, 1997 on the said Stevens Avenue.

We further request that the unsightly and dangerous humps of asphalt placed in the middle of our beautiful street be removed forthwith and that legal parking be restored to both sides of Stevens Avenue.

We believe this "project" to be ill-conceived and wish to inform you that it seriously interferes with the quiet enjoyment of our homes, offices and businesses.

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Paul C. Mercer</u>  | <u>801 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Joan L. Mercer</u>  | <u>801 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Reginald Pulouy</u> | <u>825 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Walter Hummel</u>   | <u>797 STEVENS AVE.</u> |
| <u>Sally Corrigan</u>  | <u>751 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Frank O'Brien</u>   | <u>751 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Jean Nelson</u>     | <u>751 Stevens Ave.</u> |
| <u>Brian Corrigan</u>  | <u>751 Stevens Ave.</u> |



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|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>Dandra J. Geringer</u>   | <u>815 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>Thomas Bryan</u>         | <u>815 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>David B. Fitzpatrick</u> | <u>815 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>Richard Gertzi</u>       | <u>821 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>Mary C. Greene</u>       | <u>815 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>Kenneth Christ</u>       | <u>STEVENS AVE. CONG. CHURCH</u>           |
| <u>Richard D. Cail</u>      | <u>788 STEVENS AVE</u>                     |
|                             | <u>MEMBER STEVENS CHURCH</u>               |
|                             | <u>Stevens Ave.</u>                        |
| <u>Margery Fuller</u>       | <u>37 Pollock St.</u>                      |
| <u>Gene G. Starbough</u>    | <u>member of Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u> |
| <u>Garry D. Cressley</u>    | <u>271 Allen Ave. Portland</u>             |
| <u>Christie Foster</u>      | <u>member Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>    |
| <u>Hazel Meserve</u>        | <u>23 Jersey Ave. Portland</u>             |
| <u>Leslie Meserve</u>       | <u>member Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>    |
| <u>Margaret D. Cressley</u> | <u>member Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>    |
| <u>Mary Cail</u>            | <u>member Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>    |
| <u>Kimberly Cressley</u>    | <u>member Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>    |
| <u>Hesley Cressley</u>      | <u>member of Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u> |
| <u>Kary L. Markens</u>      | <u>Member of Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u> |
| <u>Virginia L. Marsters</u> | <u>Member - Stevens Ave. Cong. Church</u>  |
| <u>Charles Turner</u>       | <u>MEMBER STEVENS AVE CONG. CHURCH</u>     |
| <u>Shady Trainor</u>        | <u>MEMBER STEVENS AVE Cong. Church</u>     |
| <u>Myrna A. Louheide</u>    | <u>804 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |
| <u>Lynn Burnot</u>          | <u>801 Stevens Ave.</u>                    |

