

LISA WHITE & MICHAEL LA VIGNE

4 HOUGHTON STREET ♦ CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139 ♦ 617-407-5748

September 9, 2013

To: City of Somerville Licensing Commission

RE: Application to extend hours for
Master Used Cars LLC
121 Prospect Street

2013 SEP -9 PM 3:05
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

As abutters of the this business, we would very much like to be part of the process regarding the application to extend hours to include Sunday operation. Unfortunately, both of us will be out of town on business at the time of the hearing so please accept this as a substitute for our personal attendance.

This would not be the first time that we participated in some city process regarding the business at this location. There was a lot of activity in 2005 concerning hours of operation, vehicles on sidewalk, too many vehicles in the lot, cleanliness etc. At some point shortly after they received a license to continue operating, the name of the business changed although the people there still seem to be the same folks. (A leopard can't change it's spots, as the saying goes.!))

My husband tends to be more mild mannered than I (on most occasions) but when he read the letter from the City Clerk, his first words were, "No. No. No. No. No"

This business continues to have great disregard for the fact that it exists in a neighborhood where people actually live.

Their sidewalks on Houghton St only get shoveled if someone complains.

Trash is never picked up around the property.

Graffiti on their fence is only painted over if someone in the neighborhood complains.

It's not like they don't see it, their employees park on Houghton Street every day!

Cars continuously park on the Prospect St sidewalk, obstructing traffic at all hours of the day.

The weeds and garbage along the Houghton Street side are never attended to.

Call me cynical, but the day we received the letter from the clerk, they must have sprayed the summers-worth of weeds with herbicide but never removed them. My husband finally got so disgusted with the looks of their part of Houghton St that he pulled up all the weeds, picked up all the trash and removed it himself.

When replacing their roof earlier this year, the roofers worked well past operating hours (which I believe are now 7pm)

They are routinely open past 7pm, washing cars or banging on something in their garage, which faces Houghton Street, and which sound reverberates throughout the neighborhood.

We frequently smell paint fumes from auto body work, although another neighbor says this is from another auto repair business nearby on Prospect Street.

On a recent Sunday , (Aug 11?) there was so much ear bending screeching noise from their property that I called 311. They were drilling through concrete to construct an entry way. The Police said they would send a squad car but they must have had other things to do as the work continued unabated from 7.30am until dark. On a Sunday.

This is a neighborhood.

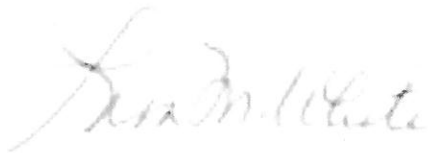
This business is not a good neighbor. The owner of this property is not a good neighbor.

At a time when the city has invested so much in "quality of life" and the Union Square project, it mystifies us why an application like this would even be considered!

The people who live here shouldn't have to be the babysitters of this business to enforce the rules.

Please deny this application and in the future consider whether businesses like this should even be allowed in this neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa White and Michael LaVigne".

Lisa White and Michael LaVigne



Figure 1MASTER MOTORS Aug 19, 213 7.48pm open and working



Figure 2 Graffiti master Motors Nov 2011



Master Motors open for Business 7.45pm Aug 26, 2013



Figure 3 Master Motors Sat, Sept 7, 2013 12 noon. Prospect St bumper to bumper heading into Union Sq, car on sidewalk obstructing Cambridge bound traffic



Figure 4 July 7, 2005