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From: John Angelone [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Mayor; Public Comments; All City Council; Jill Lathan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Davis Square Work

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Hello,

I am reaching out today because of the work being performed in the Davis Square area. I am a resident of the square on College Avenue and as a Professional Engineer appreciate the efforts to improve the infrastructure. However, I would like to address some issues that have occurred during the multiple city projects over the last year.

Most recently, early this morning 7/9/25 (3:15 AM) contractors working on the street in the Area of the College Ave MBTA Station up to Winslow Ave were using vibratory compaction rollers for paving. The work was consistent for approximately 45 minutes. These machines are first VERY loud and second shook the entire building my apartment is in. I spend many hours coordinating large construction efforts within residential communities and a disturbance of that magnitude would not be acceptable to any municipality in the early morning hours. I understand the city is likely avoiding closing Davis Square roads during the day for traffic reasons, however it seems no consideration was given to make efforts to minimize disturbances by performing high noise generating or disturbing activities at fringe hours. These activities violate Chapter 9 Article VII Division 2 of the Code of Ordinance, unless authorization was given. Particularly, Sec. 9-112, 9-113, 9-116 (3) *Construction*, 9-116 (17) *Vibration*, and 9-117. I have a hard time believing that authorization would be given for 3 AM vibratory compaction.

In previous months there has been use of jackhammers as late as 11 PM during the removal of manhole covers in the Public Right-of-Way. I still believe 11 PM is late for this type of work but it is preferable to early morning hours. This occurred over several weeks.

Last year, in October 2024, the sidewalks were being removed. The contractor for the city made multiple safety issues the endangered the public, including:

- Inadequate signage and work area control
 - Some cones were used but no physical barrier was erected to prevent pedestrians from entering the work zone
 - No coordination with buses, when the buses arrived they let out their passengers into the work zone.
 - No sidewalk closure for Winter Street. Pedestrians coming from Winter street to College Ave had no signage or marking of a work area until they were in the work area. multiple pedestrians crossed within close proximity to heavy equipment.
- Unsafe Work Practices

- The contractor had whole sidewalk panels balanced on the bucket of the excavator suspending them in the air over uncontrolled work spaces. These should have been broken and placed into the bucket especially considering the number of pedestrians being allowed to walk directly under the suspended loads.
- Use of an excavator in proximity to overhead electrical lines. I witnessed the excavator arm contact the overhead lines multiple times during the work.
- Lack of Correction
 - I notified the DPW who sent out an inspector, which seemed to have a good effect for that one day. the unsafe practices came right back for the rest of the duration of the work.

For the above reasons I am concerned and dissatisfied with the attention being paid to the right of Davis Square residents right to a peaceful nights sleep, and their general safety when out on public roads and sidewalks. I hope that this will be a topic addressed in the upcoming City Hall and that this City will commit to better communications and consideration of its Davis Square residents.

Best,
John Angelone