

April 5, 1962

Commissioner
Department of Sanitation
125 South Street
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Allow me to bring to your attention a problem which affects many members of my congregation and other worshippers in the area, and in which I believe you can be of considerable assistance.

Until now parking regulations were such that on Saturdays there were no restrictions on alternate sides of the street. Your latest ruling, however, has changed that, and now the alternate side law is in effect on Saturdays too.

This has caused undue hardship on religiously observant Jews for whom it is forbidden to operate their automobiles on the Sabbath. A number of our people have brought this to my attention and asked me to see what can be done on their behalf.

I appreciate that there must have been sufficient cause for the change to be made in the regulations. However, I hope you will understand sympathetically the dilemma of a large number of Orthodox Jews who now find themselves confronted with this serious problem.

I have been informed by the Department of Traffic that the new Saturday regulations have been authorized by the Traffic Department at the request of the Department of Sanitation, and that any change must be originated in your office.

Commissioner:

May I, therefore, urge you most strongly, in consideration of the religious inclinations of a large number of citizens in mid-town New York, to revert to the previous system whereby Saturdays were exempt from the alternate side of the street parking regulations. I know that worshippers in my own congregation and those of neighboring synagogues will be most grateful to you and appreciative of your concern and assistance.

Sincerely,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

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