

Complaint filed over parking area

Simmons College, which is in a parking-restricted district, has violated city zoning laws by paving over three campus tennis courts and replacing them with 154 parking spaces without obtaining permits, according to Kathryn Brookins, a Mission Hill activist who has filed a complaint with Inspectional Services Department.

A visit to the campus confirmed the absence of tennis courts and the presence of parked cars. A 1971 site plan shows tennis courts where there is now macadam and white parking stripes. An on-duty campus parking attendant said the courts were replaced about a month ago.

No permits for the work could be located at Inspectional Services or the Zoning Board of Appeal issued to Simmons College allowing the conversion of the land to parking

spaces.

"If Simmons has paved over its tennis courts and is using it as a parking lot, they would have been required to obtain the necessary building permits and approval from the Zoning Board of Appeal," said Joan Rooney, assistant director for operations at Inspectional Services. Rooney said the allegation against Simmons College will be investigated.

Marcus Buckley, business manager for the college on the Fenway, denied the college had done anything wrong in converting the courts to parking spaces.

"I'm not aware we committed any violations of any sort and have not received any notice to that effect," he said.

Brookins said it will be difficult for Simmons to get permits to increase on-campus parking spaces be-

cause the college is in a parking-restricted district, implemented because Boston does not meet federal air-quality standards.

"Simmons is following Harvard's lead in the total disregard of the parking restrictions that apply to this area. You have two institutions acting illegally and violating some of the most important laws on the books, which regulate the air we breathe," she said.

Brookins, who lives in Mission Hill, which is contiguous to the Longwood Medical area, filed a lawsuit two years ago against Harvard University for constructing, without proper permits, a 524-car garage under the Harvard Medical School quadrangle on Longwood Avenue. The suit is pending.

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Complaint

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