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September 21, 1998

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Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council:

The Council is to be commended for its nearly unanimous vote on the Anderson petition at the Mid-Summer meeting. It was truly an excellent decision and vote.

The great attention you gave to our proposal was truly emphasized at the first fall meeting. I did not count the number of items you charter-righted, but it was clear that you, for all practical purposes, devoted a very major part of the general business portion of the mid-Summer meeting to the Anderson petition.

Reserving this part of Massachusetts Avenue for residential uses, with a very major decrease in allowed building size, is, obviously a major decision which will be of great value not only here, but also a start on similar areas elsewhere in Cambridge.

The prohibition of principal use parking garages will benefit this neighborhood and any and all neighborhoods abutting business districts.

The vote on the yards provision will benefit the many locations in Mid-Cambridge with Residence C-2B zoning. It will, as well, benefit all districts with Business A zoning when housing is built. Most obviously, that is East Cambridge on Cambridge Street, but it will also impact River Street and many other parts of the city as well.

The Residence C-2B District is now a model district to be kept in mind for many parts of the city which now have non-residential zoning which lie on the edges of neighborhoods. Cambridge has much too many jobs for its population. The only way to end the horrible pressures on our housing stock and the affordable nature of that housing stock is to replace non-residential districts with residential districts, but residential districts with meaningful zoning. At the mid-Summer meeting you turned the Residence C-2B district into a very viable alternative for the city.

Once again, thanks.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Trémouille

P.S. Councillor Toomey's efforts to obtain open space east of Harvard Square are commendable. The one real defect in his present initiatives is that the initiatives could constitute better planning should they be more aggressive.

The recently proposed Open Space zoning is physically separated from the East Cambridge neighborhood. The separation, however, is of a nature which is ripe for responsible planning. The open space district could and should be connected to the East Cambridge neighborhood with a Residence C-2B rezoning of large areas between First and Third Streets starting right next to that Open Space district and extending up to the street at the rear of the Court House, exclusive of the blocks presently zoned Residence C-1 and perhaps areas adjacent to the Residence C-1 which would logically also be downzoned to Residence C-1.

You have done excellent planning on mid-Mass. Ave. You can and should do comparable planning in East Cambridge.

Consent Communication #74

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A communication was received from Robert J. LaTremouille, transmitting thanks to the City Council for the nearly unanimous vote on the Anderson petition.

In City Council September 28, 1998

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