



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
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Anthony D. Galluccio
Mayor

December 4, 2001

Mary Power
Harvard University
Office of Government and Community Affairs
2 Garden St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Ms. Power:

I am writing in response to your phone call today informing me that Harvard has purchased the right to develop housing units at the Polaroid site. I am assuming the purpose of your call was to inform me of this action rather than a request for my support since Harvard has put this property under agreement.

I am very familiar with this site. During discussions around this development I worked with the developer, the community, my colleagues on the City Council, and the Planning Board and City staff to ensure that housing would be built at this site and to address community concerns about traffic from the development of this site. These actions were focused on increasing the general supply of housing in Cambridge while protecting the surrounding neighborhood.

For the past six years I have urged Harvard to address student-housing issues. I have suggested that Harvard enter into a long-term agreement with the City regarding student housing and have suggested options such as an enrollment cap and a guaranteed and enforceable agreement that Harvard houses an increasing percentage of students over time. These suggestions have fallen on deaf ears. I would be much less concerned about Harvard's purchase of this property if a housing and enrollment agreement were in place. I would be less concerned if Harvard had a strategic plan to ensure that Harvard students and affiliates currently living in private housing units in Cambridge will be moving into the units at the Polaroid site, thus opening up units for the larger Cambridge community.

While I appreciate Harvard's efforts to increase the housing supply in Cambridge, this action will only benefit Cambridge if it directly removes pressure from our housing supply. I am hesitant to write in more detail regarding Harvard's purchase of this property because I have only the information you provided in our conversation and have not yet seen any written information regarding this purchase.

Sincerely,

Anthony D. Galluccio
Mayor, City of Cambridge

Cc: The Honorable the Cambridge City Council
Cambridge Planning Board



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City Clerk
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA

Dear Madam Clerk:

Please put the attached letter on the agenda as a communication for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cambridge City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony D. Galluccio", is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony D. Galluccio
Mayor, City of Cambridge

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**Communications and Reports From
City Officers #1**

A communication was received
from Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio,
regarding Harvard's purchase of
the Polaroid site.

In City Council December 17, 2001

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