

NORTH CAMBRIDGE STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

6 Saint Gerard Terrace
Cambridge, MA 02140
27 October, 1998

Benjamin Barnes
License Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Permit/License Requests for 2344 Mass Ave (Dunkin' Donuts)

Dear Mr. Barnes:

On behalf of the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee (NCSC), I urge you to deny all permits that may be requested by Dunkin' Donuts, or any entity doing business on behalf of Dunkin' Donuts, for what is currently Verna's Donut Shop at 2344 Mass Ave.

While the NCSC understands that the current owners of Verna's would like to sell at the best price they can get and leave the donut business, the Committee has heard from a variety of neighbors and feels strongly that replacing Verna's with a Dunkin' Donuts would be very bad for the neighborhood.

In particular, the Committee:

feels that there is not enough parking on site to support a Dunkin' Donuts. An agent of the neighboring bank, which currently allows parking for Verna's customers, has stated that the bank will not allow parking for Dunkin' Donuts customers.

Feels that a Dunkin' Donuts at this site will attract vastly more drive-in business than Verna's. This traffic will use up scarce parking (especially if the bank does not allow parking), will double park on the Avenue (especially with the loss of two spaces in front of the shop in the planned Avenue redesign), and will spill out onto local streets and interrupt the traffic flow.

Feels that the hours proposed for the Dunkin' Donuts (7 days a week, until 10:00 PM) would be excessive. The noise created by people coming and going late at night and early in the morning, many more people and longer hours than currently exists for Verna's, would bother neighbors, as would the lights of vehicles entering and leaving the parking lot.

Feels that entry and exit from the site, for customers and delivery trucks alike, will be problematic and create problems for nearby traffic patterns.

Overall, the NCSC and the various neighbors present at this meeting felt very strongly that any sort of Dunkin' Donuts would be bad for the neighborhood regardless of how much the proponent may try to argue he's actually proposing a neighborhood coffee shop. A Dunkin' Donuts at this site would be a destination for large numbers of commuters and regional drivers and would not in the least be a neighborhood shop regardless of the color scheme.

Once again, on behalf of the NCSC and concerned neighbors, I urge you to deny any permit applications for a Dunkin' Donuts at this site.

Please feel free to call me at 354-8353 with any questions about this letter or any other North Cambridge issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Craig A Kelley

cc: City Council
City Manager
Verna's Donut Shop

Consent Communication #15

6965

A communication was received from
Craig A. Kelly, transmitting a letter
regarding permit/license requests
for 2344 Massachusetts Avenue
(Dunkin' Donuts.)

In City Council November 2, 1998

PLACED ON FILE