



City of Cambridge

154.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 1997

VICE MAYOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: Residents of the Creighton Street, Regent Street, Porter Road area are facing the impacts of the development of formerly industrial properties for residential use; and

WHEREAS: Associated with this development is the sale of vacant land formerly owned by the Boston & Maine railroad to the developers; and

WHEREAS: This development and the change of ownership of the Boston & Maine land presents the possibility of greatly changed traffic patterns in the neighborhood with the apparent possibility of ending the dead-end or virtual dead-end status of some streets causing some neighbors to worry about the loss of quiet, the loss of trees, and the peril of potential cut-through traffic; and

WHEREAS: The City Council has placed a high priority on the development of affordable housing and on the acquisition of open space; and

WHEREAS: Although the Boston & Maine placed a legal advertisement for the sale of the land and although city staff have indicated that they were aware of the potential sale of the land to the developers of market rate housing, the Council is unaware if the suitability of the acquisition of this site by the City or a non-profit affordable housing developer was even studied; and

WHEREAS: It appears that the direct abutters to the Boston & Maine property were never notified that the property was for sale; and

WHEREAS: The extended community of Porter Road, Regent and Creighton Streets face multiple issues of traffic, open space and density, involving various city departments and several developers; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to initiate a planning process and assign staff to assist the residents; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the Council regarding the following issues:

- Did the City consider the purchase of the B&M land for affordable housing or open space? How much would this have cost? How much land in sq. ft. was for sale?
- If it is determined that the land was unsuitable for these purposes, what criteria were used and what conclusions were reached?
- Did the City have discussions with the owners of this land about acquiring the rights to a strip of land for a path parallel to the tracks? What is the status of this discussion?
- Are Creighton Street and Regent dead end streets as they appear to be?

In City Council September 8, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



Born

154

#2

Whereas: Residents of the Craghton Smeer, Regent Smeer, Porter Road Area are facing the impacts of the development of formerly industrial properties for residential use, and

Whereas: Associated with this development is the sale of vacant land formerly owned by the B+M railroad to the developers, ~~as part of a~~ and

Whereas: This development and the change of ownership of the B+M land presents the possibility of greatly changed traffic patterns in the neighborhood with the apparent possibility of ending the dead-end or virtual dead-end status of some streets causing some neighbors to worry about the loss of quiet, the loss of trees, and the peril of potential cut-through traffic, ~~at~~ and

Whereas: ~~City Staff have reported that they had discussions with the new owners of the B+M land at the time of purchase about the possibility of~~

Whereas: The city Council has placed a high priority ~~of~~ on the development of affordable housing and on the ~~of~~ acquisition of open space, and

Whereas: ~~The B+M adve publically advertised this land for sale apparently~~
Although the B+M placed a legal advertisement for the sale of the land and although ~~the~~ city staff have indicated that they were aware of the potential sale of the land to the developers of market rate housing, the council is unaware if the suitability of the acquisition of this site by the city or a non-profit affordable housing developer was ever studied and

Whereas: It appears that ~~at~~ the direct abutters to the B+M property were never notified that the property was for sale, and

Whereas: The extended community of Porter, Regent & Creighton streets face multiple issues of traffic, open space and density, ~~and~~ involving the various city departments and several developers, therefore be it

Ordered: That the City Manager be & hereby is requested to initiate a planning process and assign staff to assist the residents by ~~pro-
viding relevant information and during any
further permitting procedures~~ and be it further

Ordered: That the City Manager report ^{to} the Council ~~answers~~ regarding the following issues:

- ① Did the City consider purchase of the B+M land for affordable housing or open ^{How much} space? How much would this have cost? ^{land in sq. ft. was for sale?}
- ② If it determined that the land was ~~unsuit-~~ ^{unsuit-} able for these purposes, ~~what was this process,~~ what criteria were used and what conclusions were reached.
- ③ Did the City have discussions with the new owners of this land about acquiring the rights to a strip of land for a ~~a~~ path ~~along the~~ parallel to the tracks? What ~~is~~ is the status of this discussion?
- ④ Are Creighton Street and Regent dead end streets as they appear to be?



City of Cambridge

- 2 -

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the Council regarding the following issues: **IN CITY COUNCIL**

- Did the City consider the purchase of the B&M land for affordable housing or open space? How much would this have cost? How much land in sq. ft. was for sale?
- If it is determined that the land was unsuitable for these purposes, what criteria were used and what conclusions were reached?
- Did the City have discussions with the owners of this land about acquiring the rights to a strip of land for a path parallel to the tracks? What is the status of this discussion?
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Born, Davis, Avebay, Galluccio,
Consent Order #154100mey + Trcantab/lan

Vice Mayor Born re: Impact of
development on formerly industrial
properties for residential use by
residents of the Creighton Street,
Regent Street and Porter Road.

CM-538

In City Council September 8, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED