

Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 907

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238

January 21, 1999

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts

To the Honorable the City Council:

The Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association met on January 14 to adopt a coordinated plan of action for residents of the Prescott Street-Sumner Road residential district, an area of a few blocks in which Harvard University is currently developing plans for two major building projects. Coming after over two years of nearly continuous disruption by sewer and related street construction projects, Harvard's initiatives have caused many residents to question whether the district can retain its predominantly residential character in the years ahead.

The MCNA considers the residences in the Prescott Street-Sumner Road blocks a vital part of the neighborhood and sees an urgent need for an overall plan for this district in order to ensure and upgrade its livability for its residents. A piecemeal, building-by-building approach, as we have learned through long experience, is a recipe for conflict, uncertainty and residential decline. Instead, we need a plan that reaffirms and, where necessary, improves on those existing regulations and commitments which protect the residential environment. An essential part of this plan must be a sustainable transition between institutional and residential uses that works for both the University and the residents.

In order to prevent further piecemeal planning, the Association is opposed to any major construction in the district which does not comply with such a plan.

At the January 14 meeting, the Association formed a committee which it asked to work on such a plan and, as a first step, to propose an interim planning statement for consideration at the Association's annual meeting in May.

In order to succeed, we are well aware that the plan will need the support of the City as well as residents. We will keep you informed of progress on the plan as part of our effort to earn this support.

Sincerely,



John Pitkin
President

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

S-71/13
Consent Communciation #20

A communication was received from
JOhn Pitkin, President, Mid-
Cambridge Neighborhood Association,
regarding the adoption of a
coordinated plan of action for residents
of the Prescott Street-Sumner Road
residential district.

In City Council January 25, 1999

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