

Square Neighborhood Coalition have been part of the solution. Save Our Central Square has part of the problem.

The Central Square Neighborhood Coalition and the Central Square Business Association do not work hand-in-hand and are not yes people for each other. In fact, they often have opposing viewpoints, and don't hesitate to voice them. The most recent example is when Central Square Business Association and International Restaurants of Central Square were for adding six new liquor licenses for the Forest City Development—the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition was against it. Forest City eventually withdrew their petition due to the opposition of the Neighborhood Coalition.

Until the Holmes Realty Trust decided to tear down the existing structure, there was absolutely no opposition. The people that belong to Save Our Central Square and the Lucy Parsons Bookstore group were never at any of these meetings—nor did they ever show any concern for Central Square.

“If you want to be a socialist, you’ve got to be sociable.”

--Peter Flynn

The Holmes Realty Trust block that stretches from CVS to the Ethiopian restaurant houses a group of businesses with businessowners that I know personally and like. However, they have not been active in Central Square; in the Central Square Business Association; in the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition; or in the International Restaurants of Central Square. I never saw one of them at any of the Central Square planning meetings until the past two months. Now they seem very active, and engaged in opposing not discussing. I personally have asked many of them to join the CSBA; to be active in the Central Square World's Fair. None of them have ever participated in the World's Fair.

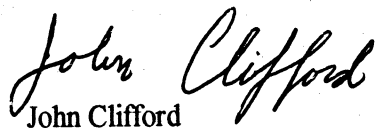
The most irksome is the Lucy Parsons Bookstore group. When they first opened, I asked them to get involved in the community. I asked them to be a member of the CSBA, and to participate in the World's Fair. I quoted them Peter Flynn. I told if they wanted to be organizers, they had to let people know where they were, and what they were. They told me that I didn't know what I was talking about and that they were a non-profit group. I explained to them that many of their books were about organizing, so they ought to know what I was saying. They told me that wasn't necessarily true. For the past three years, I personally begged them to be in the World's Fair. They told me no, it was too much money, and I offered them reduced rates. Finally I told them I'd give it to them for nothing, so people would be there and they could get exposure as part of the community. They told me that they were all volunteers and they couldn't get anyone to work it. And again told me I didn't understand.

So I think the reality of the situation is that the Lucy Parsons Bookstore and the Save Our Central Square people have become part of the problem, as the Black Panther so eloquently stated 30 years. And I do think that if you are going to be a socialist, you've got to sociable. They choose not to be sociable and it's unclear to me whether they think they're fighting racism, classism or capitalism. I truly believe that if they were truly concerned about Central Square, they would have been involved in at least a few of the past meetings. Rather than working with the community, they're dividing it.

58

Therefore, I want to express my support for the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition, led by Bob Boulrice, whose group has been the watchdog of all the development and movements in Central Square. They've been concerned about affordable housing, environmental issues and living conditions. They have worked tirelessly, and openly with the and for the community. One divisive act should not dismantle the years of community-minded progress and efforts the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition has achieved and can still achieve.

Sincerely,


John Clifford

CC: Mr. Bob Boulrice, President, Central Square Neighborhood Coalition
Mr. Carl Barron, President, Central Square Business Association
Courtney Brigham, The Cambridge Tab
Ken Maguire, The Cambridge Chronicle
Jennifer McKim, The Boston Globe
Andy Costello, The Boston Herald
Mayor Sheila Doyle Russell, City of Cambridge
Mr. Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Mr. Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager
Mrs. Susan Schlesinger, Assistant City Manager for Community Development
Police Commissioner Ron Watson
Commissioner of Inspectional Services Robert Bersani
Gerald Oldach, President, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce
Lucy Parsons Books
D. Hoicka, Save Our Central Square

The Green Street Grill

at CHARLIE's TAP

280 GREEN STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139
TEL: 876-1655 or 492-9723 FAX 617-492-7944

57
RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
97 JUL 30 PM 4:19
CAMBRIDGE MA.

**"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."
--Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panthers, 1968**

July 30, 1997

Dear Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I am writing this letter to express my support of the Holmes Realty Trust development plans for Central Square. I write as a Cambridge homeowner; as the owner of the Green Street Grill; a father of two children who attend Cambridge Public Schools and frequently come to Central Square to work, eat, and play; as a co-chair of the International Restaurants of Central Square; a member of the Executive Board of the Central Square Business Association; and the president of the Central Square World's Fair.

People have been working on creating solutions for problems in Central Square for years. Some people who have worked very hard are Carl Barron, from the CSBA, and Ken Reeves, who created a Commission to Enhance and Promote Central Square Now. I was a member of this committee. Eventually, the City Council funded \$3.6 million and established the Central Square Advisory Board, co-chaired by Bob Boulrice from the Central Square Neighborhood Coalition, and George Metzger of the Central Square Business Association. Over the past several years, there have been hundreds of meetings, all of them advertised and open to the public. I think everyone had a chance to voice their opinion. Throughout this long process, there was virtually no opposition to the plans for Central Square

Bob Boulrice, Carl Barron, George Metzger, Arnold Goldstein, and probably many others I don't know worked tirelessly on improvements to Central Square. I was at many meetings where they begged for volunteers to help them in their efforts. They discussed everything openly at these meetings. Both Boulrice and Carl Barron have always been open to talk to anybody who wants to discuss anything. I personally have set up many meetings for people who want to do something in Central Square, whether it be a barroom, a pool hall, dances, or a restaurant. Carl Barron would always meeting with them, Bob Boulrice would always meet with them. Both of them would always say that they could not make a decision on their own, but must bring the issue to their boards. And I believe that through their hard work that some of the solutions for Central Square have finally fallen into place. We still have a long way to go; however, Boulrice and the Central

Consent Communications, #58

S-479

Communication was received from John Clifford, the Green Street Grill, transmitting his support of the Holmes Realty Trust development plans for Central Square.

In City Council August 4, 1997

PLACED ON FILE