

May 21, 2000

Neighborhood Nine Association
c/o Winifred Carfagno
340 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Council Members:

At its most recent meeting, Neighborhood Nine Association held a detailed discussion of the history, current status, and future efforts to bring about a long overdue renovation of the city's main branch of the public library system. It was the majority consensus of the group that the community would be best served by rebuilding this vital and cherished public institution on the current Broadway Street site.

The primary objection to siting the new library in another location was the excessive and unacceptable additional cost that will be required to acquire another property – potentially up to \$20M. Among other objections were the following: the less inviting settings of the other sites, all other sites appear located outside the actual center of the city; all other sites appear to be in more congested and noisier environments; and all other sites would force patrons to contend with higher levels of traffic and congestion.

Support for keeping the library on its current site were based on the following considerations: lower cost; proximity to Rindge and Latin High School so that its large student population can be best served; the advantage of rebuilding on a site that has proven highly conducive to study, research, and recreational reading; and, a quiet and attractive setting that has proven inviting to library patrons for generations.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views to you and hope you will support our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Winnie Carfagno
Co-Chair, Neighborhood Nine Association
wcarfagno@bkb.com

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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A communication was received from
Winnie Carfagno, Co-Chair, Neighborhood
Nine Association, relative to the
renovation of the City's main branch
of the public library.

S-149

In City Council June 5, 2000

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