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Bob La Tremouille

348 Franklin Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Voice/FAX/modem: 617-491-7181

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CAMBRIDGE MA

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

I was extremely shocked to see on the council's list for last Monday an application to use a public sidewalk for expansion of a non-conforming business in a residential district.

I apparently arrived too late for the vote and, under the city council's rules, I would have been kept from talking about the matter unless I had known about it in advance anyway. Apparently such use was approved without anyone in the abutting neighborhoods having any knowledge of the matter.

I very strongly hope that the city council will reverse its vote allowing the use of the public sidewalk on Arrow Street for expansion of a restaurant located on Arrow Street. This area was rezoned residential by the city council in 1989 from the strong opinion that this is a residential area connecting two residential areas. This city council then was implementing the strong opinions of many residents in abutting areas.

It is strikingly distressing to see such an anti-residential vote being taken during the final stages of passage of a zoning proposal supposedly intended to protect housing. The Arrow-Bow-Mass.Ave. triangle is one of the most seriously threatened residential areas in the city. Expansion of nonconforming businesses is exactly the wrong step if the city council is concerned about protecting housing.

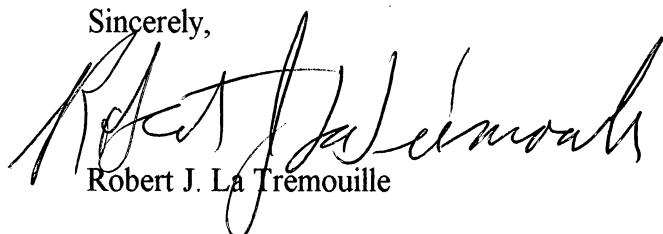
The city council downzoned this area in spite of rather extreme actions by city employees. City employees very promptly showed their contempt for the city council in the weeks immediately following the downzoning. They destroyed city open space in this block for the purpose of expansion of another nonconforming restaurant.

The downzoning vote was 7-1-1, with Councillor Danehy in the hospital. He would have voted for the proposal. The city council then voted 7-2 to reject an after the fact attempt by the City Manager to obtain your blessing of the open space destruction. Councillor Walsh was the swing vote.

The City Manager then spent about \$45,000 putting in the lovely Guffey Park in place of the destroyed open space, a very visible apology to this august body.

Please respect the residential neighborhood. Please undo your vote, if favorable action was taken on this application.

Sincerely,



Robert J. La Tremouille

H-38

Consent Communication #6

Comm. received from Robert LaTremouille
regarding the petition of Santa Barbara
Cafe on Arrow Street.

In City Council April 3, 1995

Report back from
City Mgr