



EAST CAMBRIDGE PLANNING TEAM

A Neighborhood Organization for the Betterment of East Cambridge

1998 JUL 23 P 4: 50

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CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
795 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Councilor Toomey's Council Order Regarding the "Com/Energy Site"

Dear Councillors:

On June 25, 1998, the East Cambridge Planning Team resolved to enthusiastically expresses its support for Councilor Toomey's order to take by "eminent domain" the property known as the "Com/Energy Site" for public use. These uses could include park land for passive recreation, a soccer field, a baseball/softball field, and/or a new Main Library.

We believe this order is timely and necessary. East Cambridge has an acknowledged need for public open space and the "Com/Energy Site" is one of the last sizeable, undeveloped lots left in East Cambridge. To take a parcel that is currently undeveloped can be less expensive and less controversial than to, in the future, demolish housing and commercial buildings make way for public uses. As one of East Cambridge's last significant virtual open space, we ask the Council to consider carefully the long term effects of this parcel on East Cambridge as a public open space and as a 1.2 million sq.ft. mega-development.

East Cambridge has supported millions of square feet of development in the past two decades including the CambridgeSide Galleria, the Museum Towers, the Cambridge Inn, the Royal Sonesta, the Lotus buildings, Graves Landing, the Esplanade, Worthington Place, the Monitor Building, Rivercourt Condominiums, the Education First Building, Biogen, and many other large developments. We believe East Cambridge contributes its share of tax dollars for Cambridge and will continue to grow its tax base in the future. But a balance is needed. We must create and foster open spaces. If we don't, much of East Cambridge in the future may look like the Financial District in Boston where they are spending billions to put a roadway underground, to make open space.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at 492-6239.

Regards,

Charles T. Hinds
President, East Cambridge Planning Team

CC: D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk
Robert Healy, Cambridge City Manager
Venita Mathias, Cambridge Community Dev.

Consent Communication #72 5375

A communication was received from Charles T. Hinds, President, East Cambridge Planning Team, transmitting support in eminent domain taking of Com/Energy site for public use.

In City Council July 27, 1998

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