

P.O. Box 244
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
18 July 1994

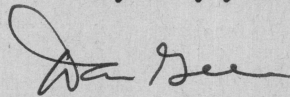
Cambridge City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Re: Proposed upzone on behalf of KKR

Honorable Councillors,

Enclosed find a letter from me to the Planning Board. I commend the same analysis to you, viz., that there is no reason to vote an upzone at this time save aggrandizement of the appellant. I strongly suggest delay until other matters are truly settled.

Very truly yours,



Dan Geer

RECEIVED BY
CLERK OF CITY CLERK
1994 JUL 20 AM 9:54
CAMBRIDGE MA

P.O. Box 244
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
18 July 1994

Planning Board
City of Cambridge
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Re: Proposed upzone on behalf of KKR

Gentlepeople;

I am a close neighbor of the KKR site, viz., my family resides at the corner of Magazine and Chestnut. You are being asked to upzone this parcel, thereby making a vastly larger commercial nexus possible. I am writing to suggest that the upzone is arguably unwise, but unarguably premature.

Let me speak to that latter point in particular, that the upzone request is premature. The argument in favor of quick action is largely that all other regulatory burden has been met, and this is merely a formality. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The issue of introducing commercial truck traffic to the MDC Parkway system is hardly closed. The formal matter will come before the MDC Commissioners no earlier than the 28th of this month. Though we, too, have read that Governor Weld has succumbed to lobbying pressure and reversed his field on the matter, there is nothing formal as yet. In addition, the precedent that an introduction of trucks onto Memorial Drive might provide is itself fast becoming a matter of discussion both in the Legislature and amongst civic and environmental groups with proven litigious capacity. This matter cannot be as simply closed as press reports of Executive action might imply and, indeed, at this point the Governor has no further bullets in his gun.

In addition, trucks on Memorial Drive are almost surely a safety issue. Only today, I witnessed a natural demonstration. Quoting from my letter to the Commissioner of the MDC and the Governor,

“At 1:35PM on Monday the 18th of July, 1994, I witnessed the following. A tractor trailer truck, Tennessee license plate V-18886, exited Pleasant Street onto Memorial Drive, turning right/west. In so doing, said truck crossed all, repeat all, lanes of Memorial Drive and

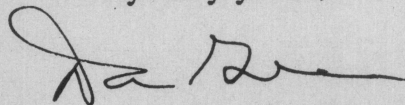
even so barely made the turn. The truck proceeded west on Memorial Drive to Western Avenue. There it made a left turn onto the Western Avenue Bridge, but with additional and considerable difficulty as the rightmost lane of the bridge was closed for repairs. The truck actually had to back and fill a small amount to be able to make this turn. From there, the truck crossed the River and, taking the Mass Pike westbound, proceeded to R128, where I lost him.

I want to stress that this truck required the full width of Memorial Drive to exit Pleasant Street, and from there to Western Avenue, occupied rather more than a single travel lane. At no point did two eastbound cars pass this truck abreast, nor could they have. For a small time, Memorial Drive was reconfigured.

I am sorry also to report that on the Western Avenue Bridge, a State Police officer providing guard duty to the construction took no action despite the obviousness of this violation of extant regulation and his clear view."

Again, without debating any of the rest of this matter, I urge you to understand that an upzone is not warranted at this time as it is not, by any means, a small but final formality. You can prudently lay the issue aside — no one except KKR and its apologists need your action at this time, and an upzone without a food store would be the worst sort of folly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Geer', written in a cursive style.

Dan Geer

cc: City Council
interested parties

Consent Communication #12

Cal # 60 0-11

A com. was received from Dan Geer regarding a letter he sent to the Planning Board in reference to the upcoming on behalf of KKR.

In City Council August 1, 1994

8/1/94

Referred to

Unfinished Business

7

8/4/94 Tabled by

Councillor Duchay

*9/14/94 Placed on file
due to expiration of
time limit*