

December 11, 1996

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
96 DEC 12 AM 10 46
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Cambridge City Clerk
Council Communication/Mtg. scheduled for 12/16/96

RE: Charter right from 11/25/96 - #s 10 - 13 (Forest City Curb Cut Requests)

It has been two years since the Cambridge Community Development Department put forward their outstanding "Supermarket Access in Cambridge" Report. The development of a supermarket as part of the Forest City development is clearly supported by this report.

With the signing of the lease with Star Market, as part of the Forest City Development, it is time to take a positive move forward by granting the curb cuts as requested by Forest City. This 40,000 sq. ft. market will represent one more important piece in place as the city works together to solve the "affordable" food access puzzle.

While we work together to put in place an affordable food source for Cambridgeport/Riverside and North Cambridge, and while we work together to maintain other existing pieces of the affordable food store puzzle, we must move positively forward on the Forest City Development bordering Area Four in Cambridgeport.

Having spoken at length with many Area Four residents, I am confident that we can maintain a strong and vigilant committee structure which will oversee the development of decent jobs for neighborhood residents, a solution to any and all food access issues presented by the development of this particular Star market, as well as any other housing, traffic, open space, retail development and parking issues which may present themselves in the future.

I am also confident, based on past experience, that Cambridgeport residents will work with Area Four residents as we stay involved in the oversight of this development.

This development has been discussed for years (I have attended countless meetings regarding this development) and with this initial stage of development, Forest City has laid a reasonable and clear foundation for continuing their commitment to Area Four, Cambridgeport and the entire city.

22

page 2

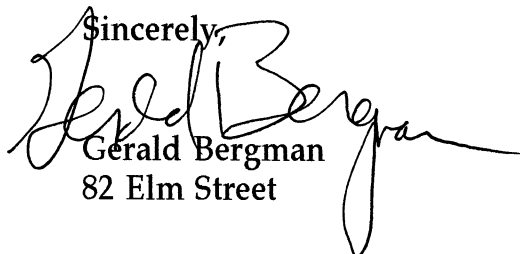
The approval of these curb cuts is the reasonable and expected next step in this development process. After the Council approved the Blanche Street transfer, a positive curb cut vote can and should be given now, especially in light of approvals given by Inspectional Services, Parking and Transportation, the Historical Commission, Public Works and abutters.

The new food store will provide jobs and more accessible groceries to low and moderate income neighborhoods that have high percentages of households without cars (Area Four has 45% of their households without cars).

The hotel will provide jobs and tax revenues. I urge the city council to support the dedication of the hotel tax (4% of room cost), from this hotel development and all future hotel developments to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, especially for the development of low/moderate-income home ownership opportunities. This hotel development alone will make available some \$300,000/year from the hotel tax!

I would be happy to speak to any City Councilors or community residents about this position, and I again urge the City Council to vote in favor of these curb cuts on December 16.

Sincerely,


Gerald Bergman
82 Elm Street

Consent Communication #22

5-640

Communication was received from Gerald Bergman, transmitting his support of the Forest City Development curb cut requests.

In City Council December 16, 1996

Referred to
Calendar # 3-6