

To: The Cambridge City Council
From: Basav Sen, 158 Western Avenue
Subject: Design review for Holmes project
Date: 3/26/1998

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The Central Square community wishes to participate in the design review of the Holmes Realty Trust project in Central Square. While public participation at this stage of a project is not customary, we feel very strongly that an exception needs to be made in this case, for several reasons. First, there has been unprecedented public disapproval of the project, as borne out by the petition to the City, with well over 3,500 signatures. Secondly, even though the Central Square Advisory Committee strongly recommended that the developers meet directly with the community, the developers have consistently refused to do so, and the only input we have had so far is indirectly, through the public hearings. Finally, the special permits were issued prematurely with several issues remaining unresolved, such as a convincing traffic impact study. This is one of the key issues we want to address through the design review, as described below.

One of our major concerns is with regard to the traffic and transportation impact of the project. We would like to participate in a community advisory group that works with the developers and the City to create a *comprehensive* traffic mitigation plan, to encourage use of transit and nonmotorized transportation both by residents and business employees in the project. Symbolic measures such as distributing transit schedules, as suggested in the developers' original traffic study, are far from sufficient. We look forward to seeing proactive steps by the Community Development Department to include a community advisory group in the design and implementation of the traffic mitigation plan.

Sincerely,
Basav Sen
(Basav Sen)



STOP THE DEMOLITION!

SAVE CENTRAL SQUARE

5 Magazine St. • Cambridge, MA 02139 • 617.492.1000

Consent Communication #16

5-214

A communication was received from
Basav Sen, transmitting a memorandum
regarding the design review for the
Holmes Project.

In City Council March 30, 1998

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