

Robert J. La Tremouille

875 Massachusetts Avenue, #31
Cambridge, MA 02139-3067
Telephone: 617-491-7181

November 30, 1997

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

97 DEC -2 AM 9:40

CAMBRIDGE MA.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL:

RE: City Council Meeting of November 24, 1997

1. City Manager's Agenda Item 30, North Massachusetts Avenue Zoning
2. City Council Order 26, Councillor Davis, Bongo Drums on Magazine Beach.

Please note the following on the above matters:

1. The City Manager states that Business A-2 zoning allows an FAR of "1.0 for retail and office space and 1.75 for multifamily residential". The clear statement is that a developer must choose between one or the other or accept a weighted average should the developer choose to mix uses. Because of the Development Department's usual failure to mention key fine print, the statement is not true.

Business A-2 allows 1.75 whether the use is "retail and office" or "multifamily residential". If there is 1.0 of "retail and office", the developer has not reached the maximum allowed use on the site, the maximum allowed use still permits an additional .75 of "multi-family residential" for a total of 1.75.

2. Councillor Davis' motion expresses concern about noise from bongo drums on Magazine Beach. The City Council should be aware that the Development Department has prepared plans for a group called "Friends of Magazine Beach" which would create a formalized bongo drum playing area on Magazine Beach.

Development Department prepared plans, similarly, show a boardwalk connecting Magazine Beach and the natural area between the B.U. Beach and the railroad tracks. This boardwalk would destroy the nesting area of the magnificent white geese which beautify the Magazine Beach - Hyatt area. Connecting paths would destroy the meadow between the B.U. Bridge and the railroad tracks.

When I objected to the destruction proposed, a significant number of people active in the "Friends" group expressed strong hostility to the geese, a very bizarre position to take when one thinks of their beauty, and of the money spent to artificially maintain swans on Boston's Public Gardens. These magnificent geese do not require a single cent from taxpayers. They do require our government, including the Development Department, the M.D.C. and the city's legislators, to refrain from acts which would destroy them.

It would seem basic common sense to refrain from destroying something of natural beauty which costs the taxpayers nothing if left alone, but then again, it would also seem common sense to refrain from spending money to encourage the racket of drummers disturbing the peace of Cambridgeport residents.

I think the City Council should determine why the Development Department spent city money preparing such plans.

Sincerely,

Robert J. La Tremouille
Robert J. La Tremouille

cc: M.D.C., Representatives Thompson, Toomey and Wolf

9-1

S-752

Consent Communication #9

Communication was received from Robert J. LaTremouille, regarding issues of Bongo Drums on Magazine Beach and North Massachusetts Avenue Zoning.

In City Council December 15, 1997

PLACED ON FILE