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July 15, 1997

To: The Honorable Sheila Russell and Cambridge City Council

From: Daphne Abeel, 148 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

For the record of the next meeting of the City Council, Monday, August 4, I am writing to inquire about the disposition of City Council Order #93 issued on June 2 and City Council Order #101 issued on June 23 in regard to an environmental study and a traffic study of the Polaroid site at 784 Memorial Drive, fronting Putnam Avenue and Pleasant Street. Those council orders directed the City Manager, Robert Healy, to request soil testing and a traffic study for this project being jointly developed by Polaroid/Spaulding & Slye.

The concerns of neighbors and abutters focus on the possibilities of toxic waste on the site which was once occupied by B&B Chemical and the Dover Stamping Company. Further the proposal of a 500 car garage raises questions about traffic congestion, pollution, and gridlock in a neighborhood that is already experiencing serious traffic backups during commuter hours.

For a project this size to proceed without proper public review is to ignore the interests and questions of neighbors and abutters, all of whom are tax paying, home owning members of the voting community. Will the City Council see that the City Manager carries out his duty to the community? As of this date, there is no evidence that either of these orders has been acted upon.

The MDC, concerned about the effect of added traffic to Memorial Drive, has addressed a letter to MEPA asking for an ENF for the site.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Consent Communication #72 5-491

Communication was received from Daphne Abeel, regarding an environmental and Traffic study of the Polaroid site at 784 Memorial Drive.

In City Council August 4, 1997

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