

To: Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The following is a copy of a letter submitted November 12, 1998 for publication to the Editor, The Boston Globe:

"Growth-control fight heats up" (Sunday, November 8, Real Estate Section) bashes the Cambridge City Council for having the audacity to meet up the street from the People's Republik bar and a pass a law that actually addresses the concerns of their constituents ("people" -- get it?). The Councilors, eight of them, voted to do something about development pressures that are disrupting neighborhoods across the city. Developers, surprise, are upset.

The article might be dismissed as a harmless piece of journalistic hype if it were not masquerading as a news story and not so harmful to the community about which it pretends to report.

It describes the September City Council meeting at which the zoning measure was passed. The reporter did not attend the meeting. Last week, after he had interviewed me about it at length, I suggested that he needed to view the videotape of the meeting in order to get the story straight. He obviously didn't bother, because his article contains numerous inaccuracies and omits important facts about the meeting.

The people of Cambridge, like the people of every city and town, want their elected officials to address their concerns. That's just what the eight Councilors did that night when they passed a temporary development rule to be in effect during a rezoning study, as many other communities have done. This rule is not "far out." It may not be perfect, but if not, it was still an honest, thoughtful effort to deal with a very difficult problem. They did their job.

For this, the Councilors deserve praise and, if The Globe has better ideas, constructive criticism, not this reckless, inaccurate trashing.

In one respect Cambridge actually is becoming like a real people's republic (such as China) and it's not our zoning laws. It's our leading newspaper. It can't be trusted.

Sincerely,



John Pitkin

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A communication was received from John Pitkin, 18 Fayette Street, expressing concern on the response from the Globe to the City Councillors efforts to do something about development pressures that are disrupting neighborhoods in the city.

In City Council November 16., 1998.

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