



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 876-6800

David A. Wylie
City Councillor

November 13, 1978

Cambridge Planning Board
Cambridge City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

RE: Rezoning Petition, Vellucci version - Mellon,
Oxford, and Wendell Streets

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I should like to urge that the Planning Board reject the above captioned zoning proposal. This particular zoning matter should prove an important milestone, for better or worse in the ongoing relationship of the City and the institutions.

Simply put, any zoning which will facilitate destruction of a group of existing decent housing ought to be rejected. That ought to be the City's rule and nothing else will do if our government is to keep faith with citizens.

To rezone so as to permit a denser, higher use with respect to any substantial number of existing buildings, given the development pressures on Cambridge, must ultimately result in the destruction of those buildings and an increase in the density and decrease in the residential use of the land.

In this particular case we must assume that we are dealing not only with Lesley College but also with Harvard. Harvard owns many of the buildings in the area, and there seems no other explanation for Lesley's sudden, inexplicable increase by a factor of three in its geographic area of interest. Not to recognize the probable (and thoroughly understandable from their point of view) mutual assistance between the two institutions would be naive on our part in the City government.

Assuming that two major institutions are involved, an additional factor and reason for opposing the original petition becomes apparent. The institutions simply must understand that the City is going to operate from a position of consolidated strength and that they can no longer fight their expansion battles piecemeal, picking off a few councillors here, a Planning Board there and a neighborhood somewhere else.

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The ease with which seven votes can be required of the Council on zoning matters, and the difficulty of producing seven votes, places even greater burden upon the Planning Board to responsibly assist the Cambridge residential community in protecting itself.

Very truly yours,



DAVID A. WYLIE

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cc: City Councillors
Mr. James Sullivan
Mr. David Vickery

0-76

Comm. from C. Wylie re: Rezoning petition,
Vellucci version-Mellen, Oxford and Wendell
Streets.

In City Council,

November 13, 1978

11/13/78

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