



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Hall Annex Inman & Broadway

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From Kathy A. Spiegelman, Assistant City Manager for Community Development **Date** April 27, 1983

Subject Rezoning the Cambridgeport Industrial Area

I have given a great deal of consideration to the status of rezoning efforts for the Cambridgeport Industrial Area and would like to share my thoughts with you and the City Council.

After a two and one-half year planning process, the Community Development Department has published the Cambridgeport Revitalization report. This report describes the area and its history, the abutting neighborhood, the differing community viewpoints, and both the planning problems and objectives for redevelopment and improvement there. The publication then presents an urban design plan with guidelines and a framework for the future of the Cambridgeport Industrial Area.

This report is a positive statement about the area's future. However, under current zoning it is impossible to realize many important features of the plan and extremely unlikely that even those aspects which are permissible would in fact take place in the manner proposed. Therefore, the Planning Board filed a zoning petition which would make possible the realization of the urban design plan.

This zoning proposal was shaped by previous rezoning efforts and discussions which took place in City Council. However, the zoning is a tool for revitalization and not an end in itself. Unfortunately, the submittal of a zoning proposal for the Council's consideration has once again raised strong divisions among Council members in a way that might make negotiation unproductive.

The divisions among Councillors resulted in the proposed petition being tabled before it could even be referred for hearings. Before the petition is removed from the table (and if it is removed from the table), I would like the opportunity to give a presentation in City Council of the Cambridgeport Revitalization Plan. I believe that the plan provides realistic development opportunities while maintaining essential protection for the abutting residential neighborhood. I believe that it offers many possibilities for housing to reinforce the edge of the neighborhood, new jobs and new taxes from business growth, improved open space and environmental amenities and a chance for transportation improvements. I do not wish these objectives lost in a repeated zoning debate.

If discussion of the plan identifies common ground among City Councillors, then the Council may move to consider the Planning Board zoning proposal or another proposal if it so chooses. It is clear, however, that until that time, the zoning process will remain on a course for inaction, and the program for revitalization no more than wishful thinking.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

May 2, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a communication from Kathy A. Spiegelman, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, requesting that a presentation of the Cambridgeport Revitalization Plan be scheduled for Monday, May 9, 1983.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

S. 268M
C. Post

Re: request from the Community Development
Dept. that a presentation of the Cambridge
Revitalization Plan be scheduled for Monday,
May 9, 1983.

5/9/1983
Hearing held
on
this date

In City Council,

May 2, 1983

5/2/83
Request for Presentation
from May 9, 1983 -
RT JPM