

75 Henry Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139
October 25, 2000

To The Honorable Cambridge City Council:

I would like to propose that the City Council select the Prospect Street, Bishop Richard Allen Drive parcel as the site for the new library. I recognize that we live in a time of great and rapid change and that, therefore, there is the desire on the part of some people to stay with the old and familiar as a way of countering change. However, change can provide the means by which we creatively address issues, I believe this to be the case with locating the Cambridge Public Library at Prospect/Bishop Richard Allen Drive. Selection of the Prospect/Bishop Richard Allen Drive site will provide a location which is convenient to mass transit, provides ample parking, and most importantly provides the lot size necessary to build a library large enough for Cambridge's present and future library needs. In addition it does not impinge on an existing public building, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, as would the site on Broadway.

All four of my children attended Cambridge Public Schools and three of them attended the high school during its reconstruction. It was not an experience conducive to learning, and there were several unpleasant incidents as well as a violent death, which occurred during school hours in a part of the building under construction. Even after the difficulties of the construction period, a library addition on that site would be too much of a constraint on the high school and the activities of the students. We should be looking at ways to increase our open space and not consider existing open space as building sites.

The Prospect/Bishop Richard Allen site will provide ample room for all of the many functions planned by the Library 21 Committee as well as space for future expansion should the need arise. It will also free up two other spaces, the existing library and the Central Square branch library for civic needs.

In closing I would ask you to think creatively about this issue and not simply think, "It should be where it has always been."

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours truly,



Geneva T. Malenfant

Consent Communication #3

S-363

A communicaiton was received from
Geneva T. Malenfant, proposing that
the City Council select the Prospect Street,
Bishop Richard Allen Drive parcel
as the site for the new library.

In City Council October 30, 2000