

ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOODS

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2003 MAY -7 P 12:54
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

May 7, 2004

To: The Cambridge City Council

Subject: Trolley Square Development

At our meeting on April 23, the Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods voted unanimously to endorse the plan submitted by the Trolley Square Committee. The plan presented was the result of the efforts of a neighborhood committee appointed by the City Manager to make recommendations for the use of this site in North Cambridge of about one acre that had been received in a transfer from the MBTA at no cost with only one condition: that it be used for the public benefit.

The procedure followed by the City Manager was appropriate and deliberate. The Manager appointed a committee of neighborhood leaders, provided staff and operating expenses, and gave the committee time to explore all the possibilities. The Committee met 12 times and held an open public meeting to solicit ideas and reactions from the entire neighborhood.

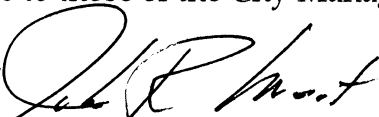
The possible uses of the area for affordable housing, open space, indoor community space, parking and convenience stores were balanced out in varying combinations before a final plan was agreed upon and prepared for submission to the Council. Creating the plan had taken a year of intensive work. Among the committee members there was a feeling of satisfaction of a job well done.

But just hours before the recommendations were to be submitted to the City Council, the City Manager, with no advance notice to the committee members, slipped in his personal recommendation to the Council requesting that it be given preference over the recommendations of the Trolley Square Committee.

The City Manager may not have exceeded his power as granted in the City Charter, but he did insult and frustrate a dedicated and responsible group of leaders in the community whom he had asked to serve the City on this committee.

We believe that the Trolley Square Committee was properly created and carried out its mission with care and sensitivity to the needs for the people. We urge that the City Council accept the recommendations of the Trolley Square Committee in preference to those of the City Manager.

Sincerely,



Association of Cambridge Neighborhoods
John R. Moot, President

S-171

Communication #1

A communication was received from
John R. Moot, Association of
Cambridge Neighborhoods,
regarding Trolley Square
Development.

In City Council May 12, 2003

**REFERRED TO UNFINISHED
BUSINESS #8.**