

**WARD FIVE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
55 MAGAZINE STREET #53
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139**

September 20, 2000

Councilor *Henrietta Davis*,
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Anticipated MIT Development in Cambridgeport

Dear Councilor:

The Ward 5 Democratic Committee is concerned about MIT's imminent development plans to replace our family neighborhood with student dormitories and luxury housing. Over the last several years, MIT has bought up many parcels of land South of Pacific Street which directly abut neighborhood housing.

Ward 5 requests that at the September 25, 2000 roundtable discussion of MIT's plans (and Harvard's as well) that their landholdings in Cambridgeport be revealed and that their master plan for these holdings be known. In addition, the Council and the neighborhood should be involved in the development of any plans before they are solidified and cannot be changed.

This neighborhood is in dire need of affordable housing, not more housing that neighborhood residents cannot afford. Parking is extremely tight in the neighborhood; adding intensive development will only make it worse. Traffic is already a nightmare in the vicinity of the BU rotary, along Memorial Drive, on Putnam Avenue and on Brookline Street.

Action needs to be taken now before it is too late. The neighborhood must have a strong role in any development that takes place.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

On behalf of Ward 5,

Mark Sunderland (SST)

Mark Sunderland, Co-Chair

Laura Kershner

Laura Kershner, Co-Chair

Consent Communciation #7

297.75

A communciation was received from
Mark Sunderland and Laura Kershner,
Co-Chairs, Ward Five Democratic
Committee, transmitting concern
relative to MIT's development plans.

In City Council October 2, 2000