

PEACE BE UNTO YOU:

HELLO EVERYBODY, I'M HASSON RASHID, I RESIDE AT 820 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE. TODAY MY PUBLIC COMMENT IS ON COMMUNICATION'S REPORT ITEM #2; COMMITTEE REPORT ITEM # 4; CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA ITEM #25, AND AWAITING REPORT ITEM # 15-64, AND ANY OF THE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT DEAL WITH ISSUES IN OUR JURISDICTION'S HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY SECTOR AND MOSAIC.

THE CITY'S PROPOSED UP-ZONING OF 14 ACRE OF THE VOLPE CENTER, IF ENACTED AS AN ORDINANCE, WILL BE A DISCRIMINATORY AND DESPERATE IMPACT TOWARDS OUR HOMELESS SECTOR AND MOSAIC. UNDER THE "14TH AMENDMENT" AND FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968, EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE, THE PROPOSED UP- ZONING CHANGES WILL PRODUCE A DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT, AND A FAIR HOUSING VIOLATION AGAINST OUR JURISDICTION'S HOMELESS SECTOR AND MOSAIC.

THOSE AUTHORITIES SUCH AS THE REGIONAL GSA, FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, VOLPE CENTER, AND OF COURSE OUR MUNICIPAL POLICY MAKERS AND AUTHORITIES, ARE ALSO OR WILL BE IN VIOLATION OF "TITLE V" OF THE "MCKINNY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT(42U.S.C. 11411-11412), 24 CFR PART 581." AND FURTHER, A VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL HOMELESS RIGHTS OF THE "5TH AND 13TH AMENDMENTS. " THE PROPOSED UP-ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGES ARE EXCLUSIONARY TO THE HOMELESS SECTOR AND MOSAIC.

INITIATIVES TO ACCOMMODATE THE HOMELESS SECTOR AND MOSAIC, ARE BEING ELIMINATED THROUGH THESE UP-ZONING LAND USE POLICIES CHANGES. MUCH OF THE "14 ACRE" OF DESIGNATED LAND HAS BEEN LAYING DORMANT, VACANT, AND IDLE FOR SOMETIME NOW, WHILE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HOMELESS HOUSING CONTINUES TO INCREASE. THE NEED TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY ON VACANT GOVERNMENT OWN LAND AND FACILITIES ARE BEING DENIED, TOWARD THE UTILIZATION OF BUILDING A PATH OUT OF POVERTY AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS (OTHERS EXAMPLES OF THIS IN CAMBRIDGE, MA ARE WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE FOUNDRY BUILDING AND THE SULLIVAN COURT HOUSE. THESE UP-ZONING CHANGES ARE LEADING TO AN IMPEDIMENT TO FAIR AND LOW INCOME HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS SUB-POPULATION IN OUR JURISDICTION.

IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE RECENT CHARRETTE RECOMMENDATIONS AREN'T AS OF YET READY OR ACTED UPON, I THINK EFFORTS TO DIVIDE THE "MITIGATION REVENUE STABILIZATION FUND" AND THE "COMMUNITY BENEFITS STABILIZATION FUND," SHOULD BE DELAYED AND PUT ON HOLD, AS ADDITION SOURCES OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUENESS OF THE CHARRETTE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENDING HOMELESS, WHEN THAT ISSUE IS SETTLED EXTRA SOURCES OF FUNDING WILL DEFINITELY BE NEED AND SHOULD, BE READY TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHARRETTE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOMELESSNESS, AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE SENIOR POLICY GROUP ON HOMELESSNESS RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH POVERTY ISSUES. THANK YOU.

YOURS IN PEACE,
MR. HASSON J. RASHID
CAMBRIDGE, MA
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