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**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Martha Older [active@ureach.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 11:06 PM  
**To:** martha; City Council; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Plwase oppose Forest City proposal; and also upport a zoning moratorium (CityCouncil)

The petition for a moratorium - to which I would add Trolley Square as one of the areas to be involved -- doesn't say never develop, but rather start by doing a citywide look at zoning, and checking with local groups. Personally, I dislike seeing Cambridge become denser and denser and more corporate and sterile as time goes on (I have lived here since 1966 - some 47 years). It's becoming more of a dry business city and less of a vital, residential city.

In my opinion, what we need is downzoning, and protection for the precious green space we still have. We are already too dense and soulless for my taste. And the developmental nodes spoken of in the petition are becoming too similar to each other. I treasure the differences in the different areas of the city. I personally love North Cambridge, but appreciate areas such as Harvard Square (though less and less as it has developed) and Cambridgeport (which happily has retained its character while losing its seediness). Central Square, however, is turning into an area which reminds me of certain undesirable parts of Manhattan - large block buildings which have nothing to do with city life. The same is true of Kendall Square and large parts of the nearby area.

Forest City, I understand, is a part of this larger trend, as they now want to be larger. This reminds me of what's happening, seemingly inexorably, to Cameron Avenue (we're now part of "Trolley Square" since it was decided to develop it) where I live. Our neighborhood is becoming a threatened backwater beside developments that are overwhelming it, although in our case they are residential, lacking in a mix of other elements. This is due in part to a citywide common pattern of developers changing or even just ignoring promises made as part of gaining permits in the first place. We have seen this over and over on Cameron Ave. And what may seem like small changes to others are large changes to us since they are part of our very immediate neighborhood.

These undesirable changes have not come about overnight, or in one fell swoop, but to a large extent, bit by seemingly inexorable bit. Small changes really do add up. Therefore, I think a moratorium while we both reflect about and consult locally about development both citywide and in certain areas is an excellent idea.

Thank you for considering this,

Martha Older  
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