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Lopez, Donna

From: Frank Solomon [solomon@MIT.EDU]
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 8:46 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: MITIMCo petition

Dear City Council Members,

I ask you to withhold endorsement of the MITIMCo petition until both you and the MIT community have a full opportunity to assess its consequences.

I am professor at MIT. I have lived in Cambridge for 50 years. My wife and I raised our family in this city, our sons went to its schools, and we have been active members of its community. We value Cambridge. I also value MIT for its contribution to society - both locally and globally. It is as an engaged and concerned citizen of both Cambridge and MIT that I write to you.

I believe that MIT needs to address the two following issues, in order to best serve its interests and those of the City:

-There is no provision to use any part of the development for housing of the many young people who come to MIT as trainees - graduate students, postdoctoral fellows - who are in fact a valuable part of the Institute's enterprise but who are not paid enough to compete for housing in the City. Indeed, MIT's failure to provide accessible housing only exacerbates the housing situation in the City.

-The dedication of this limiting resource - land - to commercial enterprise has at least two profound consequences: it forecloses on the development of academic resources for the MIT community; and it tips the balance in the City away from the academic life which is and has always been a part of the attraction of the city.

Again, I ask that you require MIT to produce a more thoughtful and workable plan before you approve it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Frank Solomon.

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Cambridge

Professor of Biology
MIT