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April 1, 2013

Mayor Henrietta Davis
Members of the City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Davis and Members of the City Council,

"No is Easy; Yes takes work, Yes is worth it" is the unspoken motto of the East Cambridge Planning Team. In the ten plus years I have been president, I have tried to help the neighborhood understand what it is they want from any project proposed and how they can make it work for them. No, development will not go away as East Cambridge has some of the most valuable land for redevelopment. It is how to make it work for us. Yes comes when we are able to assess what can occur and how it will benefit the neighborhood in the long term.

The East Cambridge Planning Team met multiple times with MIT over the last two years as their proposal for Kendall Square evolved. I would like to think that our work with them helped to shape their petition. At our last meeting with MIT on February 27, we stayed beyond our usual meeting time to give those residents attending time to review the model brought by MIT and to ask specific questions about their proposal. There was no vote taken at this meeting because of the later hour (9:45 p.m.). Some of the voting members had left and, personally, I did not think it appropriate to do so. What I did stress at the next meeting was for residents to write MIT or the Council with their questions and opinions,

While no formal position was adopted on the petition, the membership has had a favorable opinion on the CBT plan, an alternative design to the one presented by the Kendall Square Advisory Committee. I personally hired CBT Architects to work with a subcommittee of approximately 15 members from our community, the Wellington Harrington community, the Bicycle Committee, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities as well as the representative for MIT Graduate Housing Committee to design a plan which would enliven Main Street, create a grand plaza to be used by groups within the city for large, outdoor events and secure open space pathways to connect the neighborhoods to each other and to the Charles River. *Our mantra: Parks, Homes, Shops.*

Charmed To

*Working with
Lowell Jav
who wanted
more impact
for the area*

Members of the EC Board met with Israel Ruiz, Executive Vice-President and Treasure of MIT to discuss the new study undertaken to determine the type of graduate and post-doctoral housing needed. This study will be completed within 18 months and will include members of the Graduate Student Housing committee as well as Post-Doctoral students.

In our meeting with MITIMCO in May of 2012, many of the residents expressed their reaction to the plan. Much of the feedback was negative. It was over the past year that the present petition evolved and, when presented to the East Cambridge Planning Team in February of this year, received positive feedback from most of the members. We would like to think that our efforts to create a lively, neighborhood feel to Kendall influenced MITIMCO's change making. Also, it seems that many of the changes reflected in our CBT study have been incorporated into this petition.

Please note that the Planning Board praised our efforts and gave kudos to our efforts to redesign Kendall. While the present petition is not perfect, no plan is. There are residents of East Cambridge who do not want any change. There are those who are opposed to tall buildings in any space. One plan cannot satisfy everyone received praise from the Planning Board. (2) the preponderance of the East Cambridge residents who have spoken on this petition have done so favorably.

Thank you for your efforts to create a new Kendall Square.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Broussard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Barbara Broussard