

Lopez, Donna

From: Heather Hoffman [jaquith@thecia.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 12:25 PM
To: Lopez, Donna; Murphy, Brian; Maher, David
Cc: Marc Levy; ealdassari@wickedlocal.com; John Hawkinson
Subject: MIT petition and East Cambridge Planning Team

Dear Chairman Maher, Ms. Lopez and Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to request that you correct a material misstatement in the Ordinance Committee report for the March 7 meeting. According to the report, Mr. Murphy stated that "[t]he MIT proposal has received support from the East Cambridge Planning Team." It is true that Mr. Murphy said this, but the statement itself is incorrect. The ECPT has never voted on the MIT petition, and there are no letters from the ECPT in the record. Every member of the Planning Team who has spoken in any forum has spoken in an individual capacity. ECPT President Barbara Broussard made it clear at the March 18 City Council meeting, at which this committee report was presented, that neither the full East Cambridge Planning Team nor the committee of Planning Team members who were specifically working on this petition had taken a position either supporting or opposing the petition. The report does include my testimony that the ECPT has never voted on this proposal, but the fact remains that Mr. Murphy's statement will create a false impression in many people's minds. I don't know the best way to fix this because the committee report accurately reflects what was said. Perhaps Mr. Murphy can write a letter to be included in the packet for the next City Council meeting that corrects this misstatement. Councillors often cite neighborhood support as a reason for voting in favor of petitions like this, so I think it is critical that the public record reflect the truth of the matter.

Given the likelihood of a vote on April 8, I would be grateful for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Hoffman