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To: Cambridge City Council

Good evening City Councilors and members of the public. My name is Sam Allen and I am a Professor of Physical Metallurgy in MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. I am also Chair of the MIT Faculty.

It's an honor for me to speak before you tonight on a matter of great importance to the Institute and the City. I have been a close observer of the three-year process that you have been engaged in with MIT and the community at large, and I feel a tremendous amount of pride for the way we have all participated, even if sometimes a bit vociferously, in the discussion of this rezoning proposal.

At MIT, participation came from many quarters. Graduate students, faculty, staff, and the administration were all involved in the very worthy effort of trying to get the proposal right. We had different views along the way (and some still do). We debated, listened, and debated some more. We did what we do best at MIT — we asked some very thoughtful people to get together to engage in a process of examination. As you know, Tom Kochan's Faculty Task Force reviewed the Kendall Square proposal in the context of our campus planning framework and made several important recommendations.

Our culture at MIT is one that honors free thought and divergent views (very much, as I've come to understand, in the way that Cambridge does). With 1000 faculty, each expert in their particular academic area, you can imagine the range of opinions on any given subject. We foster and respect that individuality of thought and, I believe, are the better for it.

The Task Force's two principal recommendations — to study the housing needs of the graduate student population and to engage in a participative design process for the gateway area in the Kendall/East Campus environs — are now being implemented, and I'm delighted that the City will be involved in both efforts.

Mostly, what I would like to say to the City Council and to the public is — thank you. You have influenced our dialogue tremendously and have improved our proposal significantly. I hope that tonight we can mark a momentous occasion together and begin the next chapter of this exciting transformation in Kendall Square.

Thank you all for your leadership.

*Samuel M. Allen*