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From: julie wasserman [mailto:ja_wa_bo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 6:51 PM
To: City Council; City Manager
Subject: Ordinance Committee - Kendall Square Initiative

Dear Councillor Maher and Members of the Ordinance Committee:

Last week, I had the opportunity to see an overview of the Kendall Square Initiative proposed by MITIMCo, during their community Open House held at One Broadway. My family and I have lived in the Kendall Square area since the late 1990's, and the changes we have seen during our residency have been nothing less than spectacular. Third Street, from Rogers Street to Broadway, is transforming from a desolate stretch of commercial and industrial buildings where one did not feel safe walking after office hours to a vibrant, bustling destination for both employees of local companies and residents of nearby neighborhoods. We now have a beautiful boardwalk running from the Charles to Kendall Square, with kayak and canoe rentals, a summer farmers' market, music performance series, and winter skating all available within a few minutes' walk. There are unique restaurants for café, family and fine dining, and the beginnings of the smaller, local retail that draws people into an urban center and invites them to walk along and browse rather than hurry through on the way to somewhere else. On any given day you will find the local places filled with people meeting for business or just getting something to eat or drink. Now is the time to build on this energy and add the retail, cultural and aesthetic amenities that will fulfill Kendall Square's potential as a livable as well as "workable" area.

The difference between a Kendall Square of monolithic office buildings and a Kendall Square like that in the MITIMCo proposal is the difference between an urban office park and a vibrant mixed-use area like much of Mass Ave is today. With the incredible asset of proximity to the Charles River Esplanade and the Museum of Science, Kendall Square has the potential to add to the city's quality of life in equal measure to the desirability of the office space it now offers.

Cambridge and Kendall Square have changed and will continue to change as time passes. With this in mind I urge you to support the reasonable proposal set forth in the Kendall Square Initiative.

Respectfully,
Julie Wasserman
Second St.