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# OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR

E. Denise Simmons  
Vice Mayor

Mayor  
2008-2009

DATE: JUNE 10, 2013  
TO: DONNA P. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK  
FROM: VICE MAYOR E. DENISE SIMMONS

Please place the attached letter on Communications and Reports from City Officers for the June 17, 2013 City Council meeting.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.



## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

**E. Denise Simmons**  
Vice Mayor

**Mayor**  
2008-2009

June 10, 2013

Councillor David Maher, Chair  
Government Operations & Rules Committee  
Cambridge City Hall  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Seeking Update On Community Mitigation

Dear Chairman Maher,

On April 1, the City Council passed a Council Order that I sponsored requesting that the Government Operations & Rules Committee provide an update to the City Council on any progress being made in drafting a Community Benefits & Mitigation Plan. The Order also requested that the City Council be given a general sense of when a formal policy recommendation might be made. This Order was introduced as a follow up to the November 19, 2012 Government Operations & Rules Committee meeting that concluded by asking the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager for Community Development to collaborate and then report back to the committee with a draft framework for community benefits and linkage.

It has been more than two months since that Council Order passed, and as the City Council has not heard anything further, I am now seeking an update from you. A number of community based organizations have been seeking funding assistance from the City for some truly deserving programs, we are sitting upon millions of dollars in hard-earned concession money resulting from our negotiations with the likes of Forest City and Novartis, and yet we have no systematic way to distribute these funds. Many organizations that might otherwise have received funding will be forced to go without, all because we lack a Community Benefits & Mitigation Plan. This is an important matter that grows more urgent the longer we go without it, it's something I've long been advocating, and I will happily hold off on introducing another Council Order if I am given assurances that we *are* making some progress on this. Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we may discuss this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vice Mayor E. Denise Simmons

CC: Donna Lopez, City Clerk