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**From:** Michelle Kneissl <kneissm@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 9, 2013, 2:04:54 PM EDT  
**To:** "Lopez, Donna" <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>  
**Cc:** "Paden, Liza" <lpaden@cambridgema.gov>, City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>, "hurongreenhouse@gmail.com" <hurongreenhouse@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Support for submitted request related to Zoning Ordinance 5.55 - 387 Huron Avenue

To whom it may concern:

I hereby submit support for a request related to Zoning Ordinance 5.55, which I understand permits authorization of a Board of Zoning Appeal Special Permit to allow changes to roofs that currently collect and combine rainwater with household waste-water through discharge to a single outflow pipe to the municipal sewer line. I understand the Special Permit requires that all rainwater from the roof be eliminated from the sewer line and be recycled or led to the ground to follow its natural path.

As you are aware, many triple-deckers in Cambridge have flat concave roofs that gather rainwater into a central pipe which, if it cracked or becomes clogged, can cause major damage to the building. Unfortunately, the current changes in climate are resulting in more frequent and increasingly severe episodes of snow and rainfall than was experienced in past years, unanticipated by the original design of these homes. The resultant clogs due to the buildup of snow, ice and water on these flat roofs is unsafe, and this issue needs be addressed sooner rather than later. Of additional concern is the conflicting need for energy efficiency, as climate changes also increase the need for insulation in the interest of energy conservation, which in turn adds additional risk of water build-up.

Of specific concern as addressed in 5.55 is the fact that these pipes often deposit rainwater combined with the home's waste water into our sewer lines, and that given the City's efforts to separate rainwater from sewage, every opportunity for savings is of great importance. Clearly innovative and unique solutions to this issue warrant special consideration.

I understand the owner of 387 Huron Avenue, Mr. Nicolai Cauchy, is presenting for your consideration one such plan as part of a 4+ years of ongoing effort to remedy the situation given the repeated damages to his homestead over the past several years. As per the renditions I have personally reviewed of the architect's proposed design, I believe this plan not only solves the issues detailed above, but is in fact highly visually appealing and would add to the overall charm of the Huron Avenue neighborhood, as well as provide multiple opportunities for innovative design and green benefits (such as small scale rooftop gardening, seasonal vegetative coverage offering natural shading/sun, cooling by pulling up the hot air rather than heating the atmosphere with A/C exhaust, rainwater harvesting and recirculation). I imagine, in fact, that this type of solution may present a prototype for other ideas to remedy the situation in an efficient and creative manner. I give his proposal my full support and hope that the Honorable Councilors and Committee Members will also support his efforts by granting such permit.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kneissl, PhD  
Resident of 69 Bolton Street, Cambridge  
Senior Clinical Scientist at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.