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Untitled

10/7/13

Dear City Council,

As a resident of the block in question here are my thoughts.

A parking lot for for teachers is a great idea, parking is very tight in the surrounding neighborhood. Teachers shouldn't be spending their salary on parking tickets to do their job. Community garden may work if we can mitigate the rodent problem that is exploding.

Area 4 is highly concentrated with affordable housing. within 2 blocks of the land in question there are already 4 mixed income housing developments. Since I've lived here there have been two units added. The units on Main Street and on Pine street have been good additions to the neighborhood. However aged housing projects like Columbia Terrace and the very large Washington Elms Project have over time brought many issues that come with generational poverty. Residents confront issues daily of drugs vandalism/graffiti, broken glass in the tot lot on Pine street and Clement G Morgan Park. This has at times made me think twice before bringing my kids out to play.

Affordable housing is excellent and it should be built, but it should be spread more evenly throughout the city. The aggressive development of large scale affluent commercial property is squeezing this neighborhood, and income disparity is now literally towering over low income housing. Area 4 has diverse cultural, racial, and socioeconomic residents, but has the lowest median family income compared to other Cambridge neighborhoods.

(source: Neighborhood Demographic Profile of Cambridge:)
http://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/CDD/FactsandMaps/profiles/demographic_profile_neighborhood.ashx

I worry that the city in the search for staving off rapid commercial development, will build a wall of public housing that will separate the surrounding neighborhoods and will unbalance our community by concentrating poverty in small spaces.

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