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Essex Street Neighbors Association  
Public Testimony in support of Cambridge City Council Policy Order Resolution #7  
January 27, 2014

Dear City Counselors,

I am testifying in support of the resolution by Counselor Denise Simmons to have the city conduct and make available to the Counsel and the public a traffic and parking study pertaining to the planned development of Area IV.

While I have emailed you my personal concerns and suggestions regarding this resolution, I am speaking now on behalf of the Essex Street Neighbors Association, in my capacity as the Vice President.

The purpose of our organization is to promote citizen participation and a sense of community within our neighborhood. Our association includes all residents of Essex Street and the associated streets of Ashburton, Lamson and Percy Place, and the Baker's Alley. We communicate using a private list serve with about 60 members, and have a buddy system for those who don't communicate by email. Since our founding in 2012 we have held an annual general meeting, with periodic meetings of our board of director, we have also coordinate meetings with local businesses and developers and have plans for a block party and street wide yard sale in the coming year.

Traffic, by which we mean private, public transit and commercial, with the associated issues of pollution, noise, inconvenience, health and safety is a subject of serious concern for **all** of our members. The related issue of parking for current and future residents, schools, religious and social organizations and businesses also directly affects the quality of each of our lives. Our immediate concerns include the issues specific to the H-Mart and 10 Essex Street projects and so we appreciate your careful consideration of the data the City has or will gather by those evaluating 10 Essex Street project requests for variances.

We also know that these changes do not only effect those who reside on Essex Street or live, work, shop or worship in Area 4 and so we hope that this study information will be used in a larger planning context for the good of the entire community surrounding Central Square and the city as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

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