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**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Bill Mcavinney [bmcavin@MIT.EDU]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 06, 2014 9:13 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Bill Mcavinney; Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Re: Planning Resolutions and Housing Now

Dear City Councilor,

We desperately need housing in Cambridge! The vacancy rate is way too low, driving prices through the roof and our friends and neighbors out of town. This is not acceptable. At least do no harm. Don't do anything that would delay housing development. If we don't build housing, Cambridge will become a city where only the wealthy can afford to live and that would be a repudiation of Cambridge's values and history.

We should be doing everything we can to encourage housing development in the short term, and negotiating additional low and middle income housing with developers. Long term we need to create a balance between housing development and office/lab development. Maintaining a community where people can live, work, and play without resorting to a car is the way to create a sustainable city and reduce the risk of climate change.

It is easier and more profitable to build office and lab space which leads to even more demand for housing. When the office and lab worker's can afford it, they buy our existing housing, displacing Cantabrigians. When they can't they live far away and drive to work overcrowding our streets and making it more likely that rising sea levels will lap at our doorsteps. The only effective way to deal with this is to build housing. Neighboring cities like Boston and Somerville are already addressing this issue and if we don't act quickly Cambridge will become a rich enclave where very few of us can afford to live, or would want to.

Sincerely,  
Bill McAvinney