



CITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Office of the Mayor | David P. Maher

795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-349-4321  
dmaher@cambridgema.gov

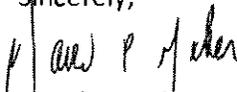
April 24, 2014

City Clerk Donna Lopez  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Clerk,

Working in conjunction with Councillor Dennis Carlone, I am submitting for the Council's consideration a revised planning order that was referred to me at the April 7, 2014 regular meeting of the City Council. Please place the attached item on the Communications and Reports from City Officers for consideration at the next City Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

  
David P. Maher  
Mayor

Mayor Maher  
Councillor Carlone

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge is required to have a comprehensive Master Plan to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the City; and

WHEREAS: The Master Plan should include: goals and policies, land use, housing, economic development, natural and cultural resources, open space and recreation, services and facilities, traffic and transportation, urban design plans, and implementation schedules; and

WHEREAS: According to the Community Development Department, the City's Master Plan is composed of a growth policy document, the Zoning Map, Zoning Ordinances, and a variety of planning studies which in many cases have focused on specific neighborhoods within the City; and

WHEREAS: The City has experienced significant development and change in recent years making the need for periodic review of our current growth policies essential to our efforts to promote good urban planning; and

WHEREAS: The City Council understands that a balanced and sensible approach is necessary to better guide future development, and that the amount of development that has occurred in our community has provided social and economic benefits to our residents, while also understanding that residents have questioned or expressed concerns with several projects and issues related to citywide planning/urban design; and

WHEREAS: The City Council recognizes that a diverse set of values exists in our City and further recognizes that our City government must respond to the needs and viewpoints of all neighborhoods, residents and business partners; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to engage the services of an independent planning/urban design professional who will lead a community process beginning with a series of public meetings aimed at receiving public input and discussing the range of planning, urban design and zoning issues that have recently been in active discussion across the city, including, but not limited to, all varieties of housing (such as affordable, middle income, or other types of housing units), the amount, type and location of new and existing development, pre-fabricated units, building aesthetics, transportation, traffic and congestion, pedestrian and bicycle safety, open space, streetscape design, building design, community-building, sustainability, infrastructure, climate vulnerability and economic development; and be it further

ORDERED: That these initial meetings take place in a variety of neighborhoods throughout the City and that every effort be made to hold these meetings prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>,

2014; and be it further

ORDERED: At the conclusion of this series of meetings, the consultant along with CDD report their findings back to the City Council through the Ordinance Committee by July 31, 2014; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Council then consider recommendations and a strategy for moving forward on short and long range planning/urban design work based on these discussions, and that the Mayor schedule an upcoming Roundtable Discussion to include the City Council and the Planning Board to address the issue of a Master Plan and to help establish the city's urban planning and community development priorities.