53

Lopez, Donna

From: Susan Markowitz [susanlmarkowitz@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 3:51 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Yes to Master Plan

14

I am writing to express my support for Order #~~41~~, the Carlone/Mazen/Simmons proposal for a Master Plan, giving authority to the City Council to guide further development in the City of Cambridge. The order introduced by Councilors Maher, Benzan and McGovern, will promote the old way of proceeding which has led to numerous neighborhood complaints about development and traffic problems in East Cambridge, Fresh Pond/Alewife, Central Square, and other parts of the city.

I am very much in favor of increasing building density close to public transportation. However, the current development of tall buildings does not necessarily achieve higher density than mid or low-rise development. We need new measures of density that don't just count people in a space but account for how well the space is utilized.

Perhaps we should take a pause in decisions related to upzoning while residents and neighborhood groups meet with our newly elected City Council members to air their concerns, learn from recent mistakes and come up with a more healthy and sustainable development plan. This would be a more democratic and comprehensive process than has been implemented so far.

Thank you.

Susan Markowitz
20 Oak Street
Cambridge, MA 02139