DEAR MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE, MA CITY COUNCIL, MY BRIEF

PRESENTATION TO YOU ALL TODAY, IS IN REGARDS TO THE FOLLOWING

AGENDA ITEMS:

CHARTER RIGHT:

ON THE TABLE; ITEM # 2, ITEM. # 4

AWAITING REPORT LIST ITEM # 14-18

COMMUNICATIONS: ALL # ITEMS RELATING TO THE MASTER PLAN

POLICY ORDER AND RESOLUTION LIST: ITEM # 11

COMMITTEE REPORT #2

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS: ITEM #3

THESE ITEMS CAN LEAD TO POTENTIAL RESOURCES TO STIMULATE

DEVELOPMENT OF CAMBRIDGE'S POOR POPULATION, OPPORTUNITIES

TO ADDRESS POVERTY IN THE COMMUNITY, AND ADDITIONAL POVERTY

REDUCING PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES.

WHEN I SPEAK OF POOR PEOPLES, I MEAN STRUGGLING NON-WORKING

POOR PEOPLES AND STRUGGLING WORKING POOR PEOPLES, AND ALL THOSE

POOR PEOPLES CAUGHT UP IN THE TRAJECTORY BETWEEN THOSE TWO

STRUGGLING POOR EXTREMES.

I MR. HASSON J. RASHID, A RESIDENT AND CITIZEN OF CAMBRIDGE, MA,

STEP FORTH TO CALL FOR A DEMOCRATIC, INCLUSIVE PROCESS, TO

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE TYPE MASTER PLAN, AND TO GET INVOLVE WITH THE PROCESS TO HELP PRIORITIZE HOW RATIONAL URBAN PLANNING, SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE POOR SEGMENT OF OUR MUNICIPAL POPULATION, CAN FIT INTO A COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN. ANY PROPOSED MERGING AND COMBING OF THE MASTER PLAN ORDERS SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH POVERTY, AS IT EXIST HERE IN CAMBRIDGE, MA.

TACKLING POVERTY HERE CAN ONLY BE DONE THROUGH GOVERNMENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICIES, WHICH SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN ANY PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLANNING. IF NOT THEN IT BORDERLINES A NEBULOUS CASE OF MARGINALIZATION AND DISREGARD FOR THE ENTIRE POOR COMMUNITY OF POOR PEOPLES HERE IN CAMBRIDGE, MA.

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLANNING SHOULD EMPOWER THE CITY TO ACT ON URBAN SOCIAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE POOR PEOPLES/ POVERTY CHALLENGE HERE IN THE MIDST OF CAMBRIDGE, MA., ON A CITYWIDE SCALE. CITY GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT HOW IT FRAMES THE TARGETS AND INDICATORS, OF THIS MERGING OF POLICY ORDERS OR MASTER PLANNING, SO THAT YOU ALL, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POOR PEOPLES/POVERTY ISSUES, IN AN URBAN SOCIAL CONTEXT.

I THINK POOR PEOPLES/POVERTY ISSUES CAN'T BE TACKLED THROUGH GOALS, BECAUSE IT'S NOT A SECTORIAL PROBLEM, IT IS PLACED BASED, AND IT'S A COMPLEX URBAN SOCIAL ISSUES, HERE IN CAMBRIDGE. POOR PEOPLES HERE IN CAMBRIDGE DON'T HAVE A SHARED GEOGRAPHY, THE REALITY IS THAT THEY ARE THE AFFECTED POPULATION WITH POVERTY. MANY TIMES I HAVE HEARD CITY GOVERNMENT BOAST OF CAMBRIDGE HAVING A STRONG ECONOMY, FIXING POVERTY SHOULD BE A DOMINANT THEME WITH THIS PROPOSED MASTER PLAN, OR ANY RELATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS. THE POOR PEOPLES HERE HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED FOR A LONG TIME, AS OPPOSED TO BEING HELPED, AND HOMELESSNESS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS, PLUS HOW ENTITIES SUCH AS THE CAMBRIDGE AFFORDABLE TRUST AND THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT, AREN'T FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO EXTEND AID TO FRONT LINE LOW INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATE AND OUT REACH ENTITIES.. ETC.THEIR SHOULD BE ENOUGH COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC FLEXIBILITY ADDED IN THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN, THAT DEMONSTRATES A WILLINGNESS TO HELP THE POOR GAIN WELL BEING.

Mr. Rossi

~~THE CITY MANAGER~~ WANTS TO CONFER WITH THE CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL, ABOUT THE LOCAL ARTS COMMUNITY USING THE FOUNDRY BLDG., AND TO ALLOCATE APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO CREATING A COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER. I THINK INSTEAD THE FOUNDRY BLDG., WOULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE BY, BUILDING A COMMUNITY BASE POVERTY PROGRAM THERE/ PROVIDING POVERTY REDUCING OPPORTUNITIES

CONSEQUENCES COULD BECOME MIGHTY DIRE, IF RECOMMENDATIONS

SUCH AS THOSE FOUND IN THIS PRESENTATION, TO INCLUDED PROVISIONS

TO EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH POVERTY AS IT EXIST HERE IN CAMBRIDGE,MA

ARE NOT BUILT INTO YOUR PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN.

IF WE DON'T TRANSFORM THE WAY THIS CITY DOES BUSINESS AND

FUNCTION, WHEN IT COMES TO IT'S METABOLISMS AND RELATIONSHIP,

WITH POOR RESIDENTS, THEN WE ARE PUTTING THE ENTIRE

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS AT RISK TO FAILURE, THAT

IS PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE. DETROIT IS SOMEWHAT OF AN

EXAMPLE OF THIS, LOOK AT WHAT 'S HAPPENING IN DETROIT, MI TODAY, AS

I SPEAK. THEREFORE, IF A PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY

OF CAMBRIDGE, MA, DOESN'T INCLUDE SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR THE POOR

POPULATION, AND ALSO ELEMENTS LEADING TO RACIAL EQUITY, BECAUSE

ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUALITY, IS ALSO KEY TO ENDING POVERTY). THEN,

I'M AFRAID THAT YOU ALL WILL BE MISSING THE MARK, FINALLY, I LEAVE YOU WITH A QUOTE FROM THE CODE OF KING HAMMURABI OF ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

" THE FIRST DUTY OF GOVERNMENT IS TO PROTECT THE POWERLESS

AGAINST THE POWERFUL."

YOURS IN PEACE, MR. HASSON J. RASHID,820 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE,

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