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**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Bill & Nan Stone [stonefam69@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2014 11:14 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** I support the Carlone-Mazen-Simmons master plan initiative (Policy Order #14)

Dear City Councilors:

Like all Cambridge residents, my wife and I enjoy benefits quite unusual in cities and towns these days: a vibrant, healthy community, in which municipal services are excellent, infrastructure is well-maintained, schools are steadily improving, finances are rock-solid, and residential taxes are low. For these benefits we thank our diligent City Council, and our City's superb professional civil service, led in recent years by our very capable City Managers Richie Rossi and Bob Healy.

But issues can emerge by degrees without being fully-appreciated in the first instance and mistakes can be made. An example of this is the development of a large number of housing units in the Alewife-Concord Avenue area. Some of these projects are quite classy (the big apartment complex on Fawcett Street) and some are pretty tacky (the apartment building on New Street), but it certainly appears that their cumulative effect has not adequately been considered as an historically industrial area has been developed for residential use.

It's an appropriate time for a fresh look, on a comprehensive basis, at planning in the City. I think this is something best handled directly by City Council and not delegated. The professional planners in the City's administration, and the Planning Board, have important roles to play; but this topic should be a high priority of the Council itself.

Thanks for reading this, and thanks for all your work in making Cambridge such a great place to live.  
Sincerely, Bill Stone

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