

Lopez, Donna

From: Wendy Carney [wendy.a.carney@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2014 12:29 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Policy Order 15

Dear Cambridge City Council:

I am writing to express my support for Mayor Maher, Vice Mayor Benzan, and Councilor McGovern's policy order on the issue of a master plan in Cambridge. As a Cambridge resident, I believe we need strong, community-based urban planning that helps build housing now in our city. I support policy order 15 because it will ensure equity through a planning process facilitated by the professional staff of Cambridge's Community Development Department, rather than politicized under the auspices of City Council committees.

I support the Maher/Benzan/McGovern policy order and believe any new planning process should achieve the following goals:

- Ensure a fair planning process guided by CDD's professional staff, rather than controlled by City Council committees;
- Allow for the immediate and continued production of new housing, including the availability of standard zoning tools such as special permits and density bonuses for additional housing. Cambridge must **build housing now**. Our city faces a serious shortage of housing available to meet the diverse needs of Cambridge families, and housing prices keep rising. A report by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) recently projected that Metro Boston must produce up to 435,000 new housing units by 2040 to meet the needs of working families and our aging population -- in Cambridge alone, overwhelming demand for housing requires at least 6,000 new housing units;
- Recognize the significant community input and public resources already contributed to K2C2 and similar planning efforts. To disregard K2C2 would set a bad precedent, and would bring into question the viability of any new community-based planning initiatives in Cambridge. **Build upon, don't scrap** previous community planning efforts in Cambridge;
- Recognize that **density is key to achieving Cambridge's sustainability goals** by planning for walking, biking, and public transportation to reduce car dependency citywide. Cambridge endeavors to be a leader in the fight against climate change. Sustainable growth means turning away from a car-centered paradigm for development and ensuring growth that relies on cleaner forms of transportation without an increase in vehicle traffic. Increasing the housing and commercial opportunities in Cambridge neighborhoods best served by public and alternative transportation promotes sustainable growth that allows residents the opportunity to live, work, shop, and play in the same community. Any new planning process in Cambridge should **emphasize walking, biking, and public transportation to reduce car dependency and build a more sustainable city.**

I hope that you will take the above points into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Wendy Carney
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