

NINA KANIKAR MENG YOU
EAST CAMBRIDGE, MA
7 APRIL, 2014

59

Cambridge City Council
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA

re: Policy Order #14

Dear City Council Members,

I am a resident of Cambridge. I urge you to support Policy Order #14, the Master Plan initiative presented by Councillors Carlone, Simmons and Mazen.

Cambridge is one of the most dynamic cities in Massachusetts. It's home to the two best universities in the world and a mix of long-term livability on a human scale and innovation. Yet, after decades of input, there is still a lot of piecemeal decisions about development that affect the livability and sustainability of the City. It is obvious with the given record that departments like the Community Development Department and Planning Department have been deficient in bringing a clear and transparent vision for the City of Cambridge to the average citizen. In fact, I would argue that it's precisely because Cambridge has no Master Plan that the good works of development are not realized in a sustainable manner.

City of Cambridge decision making has a gap where separate, independent departments cannot provide leadership. Lacking a master plan, piecemeal deals and hidden agendas can pass right through. The understanding of the average citizen as to what the City is accountable for needs a master plan. Process and decision making is restricted in the scope of each department, whether it is zoning or planning or traffic and there's no accountability or solution when there is cross-over issues that affect different neighborhoods and variety of impacted sectors.

A master plan is important for a city of this caliber to attract and retain excellence for a longer range than from one administration to the next administration. A master plan is an issue of good governance. A master plan is also needed for accountability and measuring success to answer questions of greater themes important for the future of the city, so that the citizens of Cambridge can see decade by decade or era by era if development has brought the intended value-added progress as envisioned.

Sincerely,



Nina You

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2014 APR 8 AM 10 12