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Susan Yanow 221 Norfolk Street

Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of the City Council,

I would like to comment on two issues; the initial report from the consultant on the citywide Master Plan and Policy order #17, which proposes an advisory committee to study the functioning of the Planning Board and make recommendations.

These two issues are related. The consultant writes in one place, "***if*** a citywide master plan goes forward", when I had assumed the Council was in agreement that a master plan is essential given the current rate and scale of new development and the lack of a cohesive overview into what the cumulative impact of this development is and will be on traffic, water and sewer infrastructure, transit, the environment, and the overall livability of our city. I hope the Consultant ~~does not reflect any doubts by~~ the Council ~~about the~~ that you have recognized urgent need for a Master Plan. City's can be instructed

Currently, there are a number of very large projects seeking to break ground, in E. Cambridge, Central Square and in the Alewife area. This rampant development speaks of the immediate need for oversight. In a public meeting in May, one of the Planning Board members said, "This process is broken". Other members have acknowledged in public meetings that they do not have an adequate overview of how various developments fit together or how to measure the cumulative impact of hundreds of thousands of square feet of new development. . ~~Jan Devereux eloquently~~

As one example of how broken the process is, citizens recently unearthed records showing that the New Street development is on a former brownfield. Surely CDD has a map of all the brownfields in Cambridge. Why didn't the CDD inform the Planning Department about this at the first hearings on this proposed development? How can the Planning Board make informed decisions without adequate input? What would have happened if citizens had not identified this hazard? Will the special permit process be impacted by this information? — The entire planning process is broken, the prob is not limited to the Planning Board. Jan Devereux eloquently spoke to ~~what~~ some of the solutions to this broken planning system.

I therefore urge you to oppose the idea of creating an "advisory committee" unless it is part of a comprehensive plan to immediately evaluate every project in light of every other proposed development. Sending this critical issue to "be studied" simply means that development will continue, without any checks. While clearly the Planning Board process needs to be changed, and the role of CDD in providing full research and information BEFORE any hearing needs to be strengthened, there must be a process to monitor all development while this change is being undertaken.

~~I support the Carlone pet~~

While the Master Plan is being created, it should be the responsibility of the City Council to assess this cumulative impact. as proposed by the Carlone petition Please, City Council, take responsibility for the future of our city, before any more permits are blindly issued.