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I'd like to add my voice to those in support of moving the so-called Carlone petition to the second reading.

Many have suggested that this petition politicizes the issues of development in Cambridge. I agree.

Like Dr. King said about violence – we have been accused of creating violence but we are only lifting the sheet to expose the violence which already exists”. **The** process of development in Cambridge is already highly political. Our challenge is to change the dynamics of those politics to insert some democratic oversight on development.

Now, developers come to the Planning Board with many resources - all necessarily designed to support their interests. They have the money, the diagrams, the experts and the underlying plan of what they want (or a proposal which starts with more than what they want) and with unlimited time to make their pitch. They meet a Planning Board of volunteers with a lot on their plates and operating, at the moment, under narrow guidelines for approval or disapproval. If not approved quickly, the developers continue to take their time to present what they choose from what is asked, bring modifications to narrow questions but still fully resourced. Often city resources – community development, traffic and parking, etc. buttress the developers.

The public, on the other hand, are also volunteers but ones without status and whose lives were not designed to be devoted to development questions in Cambridge. Fortunately for this city many have done just that. People have spent thousands of hours trying to become knowledgeable, and it has been our voices that have raised the issues of toxicity, affordability, transfer of ownership, floodplains, traffic congestion, etc. etc. etc. There are many projects which have already gone through and many already approved which account for huge unplanned build out.

This petition is a creative invitation to our elected council to act on behalf of the city as a whole regarding development at the Sullivan Courthouse and in the Fresh Pond / Alewife Brook flood plain area. As long as it is on the table, large development at 40 Thorndike Street, 75 New Street, and 88 CambridgePark Drive is subject to direct city council oversight and review. If the petition fails, however, then the Planning Board will have the final say in those areas of immediate concern. As Peter Johnson said at the meeting in July, we need your help. I hope you will pass this along. And I hope what is now a needed temporary measure will someday grow up to become a democratic master plan in perpetuity.

I also support the hopeful intent behind Marc McGovern's bill to increase affordable housing percentages and request bolder quicker action (past reflection on ideas) to actual implementation of 25%-35 or 45% for affordability. There are too many anecdotes I have heard from people who thought their dreams had been answered by getting one of the 2 or 3 or 4 affordable units in new housing complexes only to feel more excluded socially and politically by their "house mates". One woman said she had more companionship and support when she was in public housing.

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