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Lopez, Donna

From: Joanna Herlihy [joanna_herlihy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 1:06 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Councilor Carlone's petition for Council oversight pending adoption of Master Plan

Sirs and Mesdames,

I write in support of the petition for city council oversight of major development projects pending adoption of a master plan.

Intervention by City Council in such matters has been termed political. Indeed, if the interests of residents are considered to be "political", maybe that is appropriate. Supposedly professional and disinterested development policy in this city for decades has been out of touch with the interests of residents, so how else are we to advance our interests other than via our elected representatives?

Maybe a master plan won't help much either. Who we residents of Cambridge are has been drastically affected by changes in recent decades. Since the late 1970's, the cost of living here (rents at \$100-200/month over most of the century) began to increase drastically. What has been going on? Those who had been protected by rent control since mid-1970s left shortly after 1994. Of long time low income residents, those who own their homes or enjoy subsidized housing remain. The City maintains a stock of low income residents in subsidized housing and tries to retain middle income residents by supporting affordable housing (a hopeless endeavor). A huge proportion of Cambridge residents were obliged to leave in 1994-1995. So who is this city for? One would think that a municipality exists for its residents, but here that is not the case. So what are we in Cambridge here for? What do we purport to be?

Regards,
Joanna Herlihy
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