

Good Evening Mr. Mayor

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4 City Council Members:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you this evening about dispersion of the 80/10/10 funds.

My name is Nancy Porcaro, Resident Services Coordinator at 402 Rindge Ave.

By approving the Community Preservation Act's recommendation to allocate 80% of this year's funding to the Affordable Housing Trust will benefit low-income individuals and families on many level which includes not only housing, but health and employment opportunities. In the 2013 City of Cambridge Community Health Assessment, participants identified lack of affordable housing as an overall community concern.

The survey stated those struggling who are *not* in affordable housing had more health problems. To that end, there can no doubt that affordable housing is a cost effective gateway to stabilizing one's life and to a stronger community.

Without permanent affordable housing the focus for Cambridge residents is not on the future but on day to day survival. Homelessness itself is an enormous burden on tax payers as those without housing frequently visit the emergency room or end up in the legal system. Cambridge has always been a blend of cultures and classes and to dismiss the group that has the least would also eliminate a key element: a sense of belonging.

Everyday I work with residents who could not survive financially, emotionally and psychologically without a stable, affordable living environment. With it, they create a stronger sense of self and a community which will benefit

**Cambridge for years to come. People in need are often their own best problem solvers and if given the chance, they can take stock of their experiences and build on those insights with the help of this great community.**

**I appreciate the good work the City Council does and will continue to do for the City of Cambridge.**