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My Name is John Woods, I am the Deputy Director of Planning and Development for the Cambridge Housing Authority. I am here today to urge you to approve item #1 in the Applications and Petitions section of the Council's Agenda which is a request for a curb cut at the site of the Jefferson Park-State development. The curb cut is needed so the CHA can incorporate the new entrance into the redeveloped site which was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals in October of 2014 after a spirited public process. As part of that discussion we worked closely with the JP residents, with the neighbors, and City Departments to come up with a new traffic pattern at the site that will provide an entrance across the street from the intersection of Rindge Avenue and Clifton Street.

The curb cut design submitted as part of the curb cut application reflects significant input from all the City Departments involved in the evaluation of the request and has been discussed with neighbors adjacent to the property through public meetings and using the direct mailing procedure required by the curb-cut process. As a result of that formal inquiry we received 9 responses with five of the responses approving the curb-cut, three objecting, and one was returned blank.

The approval of this curb cut request will allow the Cambridge Housing Authority to move forward with the construction phase of the redevelopment activity that began close to eight years ago and will mark an important turning point for the CHA, the

residents of Jefferson Park and the Rindge Avenue neighborhood. The project is expected to cost over \$55 million dollars and includes a full array of public and private resources that will allow the CHA to provide first-class, energy efficient housing that is deeply affordable to the Cambridge families that have called Jefferson Park-State home since they were first built in 1950.

You may have noticed that the former Jefferson Park-State development is nearly completely demolished at this point. The CHA moved to demolish the buildings beginning in May to help improve the pricing of the new construction phase of the project which we expect to begin this Fall. The demolition process is never an easy thing to accomplish in a densely occupied area like Jefferson Park. We have been in constant contact with the abutters of the site, responding to their concerns and making adjustments to our procedures as needed to help mitigate concerns or problems that are bound to arise. We have also worked closely with City and State officials to ensure that the work has been performed within all required regulations. We have and will continue to address any and all concerns from neighbors associated with the demolition work.

Again, I respectfully urge the City Council to approve the curb cut application so the important work associated with revitalizing the Jefferson Park-State development can begin.