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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Robert & Lisa Camacho
24-26 Corporal Burns Rd.
Cambridge, MA 02138

July 30, 2015

Cambridge City Council
Clerk's Office, Cambridge City Hall
831 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Cambridge City Council,

We are writing to you to support our neighbor, Jessie English and her application for a curb cut at her property at 27 Corporal Burns Rd. (City Council meeting dated Monday, August 10, 2015). We own and live in the home directly across the street from Jessie. We have reviewed the designs for the parking driveway next to her home. We approve of these designs. We also documented our support by approving and signing the curb cut form required by the city earlier this year.

We have known Jessie English since she moved into the neighborhood in Oct. 2004. She has been an exemplary neighbor and a well-liked member of our close-knit Corporal Burns Road community. She is thoughtful and considerate of all and works hard to maintain her property and keeps it well tended. She has made significant improvements to her home including a 2010 remodel and the addition of solar panels in 2013. This has resulted in the house being much more attractive with significantly enhanced curb appeal and her home is a welcome improvement to the neighborhood. Whenever she has made changes to her home the work and materials are always of high quality.

Because of the ongoing sewer separation project and the associated redesign of the sidewalks, street drainage etc., it is a logical time for Jessie to get a curb cut and a driveway next to her home installed. She is trying to work with the City so this can be incorporated into the ongoing construction of the street and sidewalks.

Her request will be consistent with the other homes in the neighborhood and all of them except hers and one other have driveways. Several have multiple curb cuts and several have double wide curb cuts. The placement of her parking space is logical and will not negatively impact the esthetics of the street. Given her history of home improvements, the space will be improved after this installation of a parking space using permeable pavers and attendant landscaping etc.

She and other Concord Ave. neighbors have endured and will endure additional hardship due to

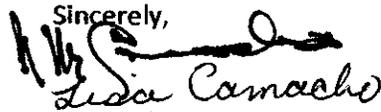
- 1) The loss of parking spaces that will occur on Fern Street when the sewer separation project is completed.
- 2) Many neighboring apartment dwellers leave their cars for weeks at a time on our street rather than pay the cost of parking in the parking lots at their apartment buildings. This practice is especially challenging during the winter months when there is no street cleaning.
- 3) Neighborhood parking will soon be significantly more difficult by the influx of new residents due to the construction of several large residential apartment buildings in and near the neighborhood.

- 4) The record breaking snowfall of this past winter further underlines the challenge of parking on the street. The enormous resources and effort required to clear a parking space is compounded by the stress of worrying about someone leaving their car in that space for weeks at a time.
- 5) Many driving schools use Corporal Burns Rd. for teaching and practicing parallel parking for their students. The cars that are parked on the street are used as "bumper cars". It is extremely stressful to watch student drivers practice parallel parking . Jessie rides her bike to work during the summer and so can't monitor these "practice sessions" when she isn't home.
- 6) Finally, there is the inability to often park her car on the street during the ongoing sewer separation project.

In our view, this set of circumstances constitutes a hardship with regard to parking.

Our area of Cambridge is undergoing enormous development and change. At a minimum the city should help mitigate the multitude of negative impacts these changes are making on the long-term tax paying residents, such as Jessie, who have demonstrated investment and involvement in Cambridge and our Corporal Burns Road community.

For all of the above reasons we are very supportive of Jessie gaining approval from the City Council to install a curb cut for her home.

Sincerely,

Robert & Lisa Camacho
24 & 26 Corporal Burns Rd.