

# FW: Volpe Transportation Site - Open Space (Clerk, please place letter in Official Record of Council Meeting)

Lopez, Donna

Thu 2/5/2015 2:18 PM

Inbox

To: Creedon, Paul <pcreedon@cambridgema.gov>;

Categories: Communications for Agenda

**From:** David de Swaan Arons [mailto:ddeswaanarons@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 2:10 PM

**To:** City Council

**Cc:** Lopez, Donna; Paden, Liza; City Manager; Murphy, Brian; Dash, Stuart

**Subject:** Volpe Transportation Site - Open Space (Clerk, please place letter in Official Record of Council Meeting)

Dear Councilor,

I write in support of the Policy Order (O-29 of February 2, 2015) sponsored by Councilor Carlone requesting the "*...City Manager work with all relevant City Staff to revise the proposed zoning for the Volpe site to include an option for a 7.5 acre public park as originally planned...*"

As an East Cambridge I cannot stress strongly enough how important open park space is to the residential part of the area. As residents we are surrounded by development and so it is crucial that an existing zoning of 7.5 acres open space becomes available as just that, 7.5 acres of open space.

East Cambridge already provides a majority share of the tax base for Cambridge and with all the existing developments in East Cambridge that number is only going up. Whilst we residents are on board with most of the current developments, it is unthinkable that a zoned 7.5 acres of open space now be rezoned to 2.5 acres of open space; that is nothing short of telling East Cambridge RESIDENTS that Cambridge does not care for us or even represent us and that Cambridge will over rule basic East Cambridge residential needs (i.e. an open park space) to favor an already enormous and ever growing business base.

The Volpe site was originally taken by eminent domain and belongs to the taxpayers by way of the federal government. The mission of the government is not to maximize profits but to serve public interest. Clearly it is in the private developer and not in the public interest to take a 7.5 acre space and rezone it to 2.5 acres. Creating a 7.5 acre park is in the public interest. And since the site is already zoned for 7.5 acres of open space, the City is not taking anything away from the owner.

Please ensure that one of the few remaining assets that East Cambridge residents still have in the balance of the non-stop development onslaught, doesn't now also get lost forever to further for profit development.

Thank you for your public service.

Respectfully,

David de Swaan Arons  
Thorndike Street,  
Cambridge, MA 02141