

FW: Volpe site

Lopez, Donna

Fri 2/13/2015 9:52 AM

Inbox

To:

From: C [mailto:ired.eggers@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2015 7:34 PM
To: City Council; Lopez, Donna
Cc: Dennis Carlone
Subject: Volpe site

Dear councillors,

In anticipation of tomorrow's meeting on the development of the Volpe site, if it is not cancelled, I would like to urge you to support Councillor Carlone's order as well as consider an even more community-minded approach to the development of this site.

We have a rare opportunity to ensure that the Kendall Square area remains a site that responds to the long term community needs, and not simply the short term economic gains of private developers.

First, the fact that we will be largely losing a site that has been paid for with our tax dollars is a shame. Our city needs to get maximum benefit that goes beyond temporary labor and housing projections. Our city needs the diversity and commercial variety that has contributed to its culture, attraction, and liveliness.

Second, the housing needs of the most vulnerable families is not adequately addressed in the development. Remember the rich Portuguese and Brazilian populations that peppered the neighborhood before? Where are they now? How can the city bring them back and retain them and other populations that are rapidly disappearing due to the high, unfettered costs of rent and homeownership?

Third, the city financed a comprehensive study of the needs for open space that I urge you to revisit.

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/parks/osplanning/greenribbon.aspx>

Again, our city funds were employed to further a study, priorities, and plans that are now being ignored.

In addition, the lively ground floor urged in your plans have little attention in this plan. More stores that serve the community are needed so as to foster local businesses and reduce parking and traffic problems.

I urge you to make a fitting tribute to our recently deceased leader, Brian Murphy, and pledge to seriously uphold the principles and practices outlined in the Green Ribbon report and other community-centered studies and plans.

My best regards,
Costanza Eggers
Porter Road