

# Council Order #12 (April 13, 2015)

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City Clerk Agenda

To: City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

Cc: Lopez, Donna <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>;

April 13, 2015

Cambridge City Council

City Hall

795 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council:

I am writing to you on a beautiful Monday morning baffled by councilor Carlone and councilor Mazen's policy order #12 which is not just a bad faith eminent domain-like taking, but will freeze development in Central Square perpetuating its continued use as an office park. The policy order reads as if it were written like a thoughtless stab at Normandy's attorney and not the act of responsible politicians or planners. However, what this policy does show is Carlone and Mazen's clear contempt for the property owners in Central Square most of whom are multigenerational Cantabridgians, the citizens in Central Square, and a complete disregard of the democratic process.

I have participated with dozens of citizens for over five years in a concerted City process that would have the effect of freeing up development opportunities by encouraging residential development. A process which has been overwhelmingly approved by the citizens of Cambridge. This policy order represents just one in a series of distractions Dennis Carlone and Nadeem Mazen have embarked on over the course of their two year council membership to derail that very process. It started when Carlone likened the C2 committee and its work to "Pearl Harbor" in an annoying robo-call campaign. This insensitive and reckless mischaracterization of C2 was a precursor to the "Carlone Petition" wherein councilor Carlone, with the endorsement of Mazen, tried to unilaterally usurp Planning Board control over article 19 special permits. Instead of spending time working on the zoning language produced through an active democracy the Planning Board was forced to defend themselves against an unwarranted politicized attack. Carlone went further to embarrassingly use the same C2 language he attacked to get elected in a counter presentation at the last Ordinance Committee meeting. I'm not sure how much time was spent on this "alternative" proposal, who has vetted it, or if it is even real, but I am sure had the same amount of time been allocated to C2 we'd all be in a much better place right now. Now once again we must defend ourselves from the egregious actions of two councilor one of whom lauds himself as the "champion" of master planning. Who do these councilors work for? It certainly isn't the city as a whole and in the words of Dennis Carlone, "That isn't planning..."

I find it equally aggravating that both councilors have had before them the product of a truly democratic process with incomplete zoning language and instead of attempting to fix, amend, or contribute to it in any meaningful way they for the past year and a half have decided to ignore it and posture for political gain using all of Central Square as a mere pawn on their political chess board. I now see the folly of the past year where I spent a good deal of time and energy attempting to look beyond their past transgressions and search for the middle ground. It was time and money wasted.

In short I believe the remaining seven councilors, the City, and its citizens have been exceedingly patient with two autocrats who clearly have no respect for democracy or the citizens of Cambridge unless there exists a special personal interest and thus I believe the time for patience is over.

I therefore ask that the remaining seven councilors condemn this brazen attack on Central Square by demanding a withdrawal of this tragic piece of nonsense or at least ensure its swift death in committee; if that is where it must go. I ask that you show solidarity for Central Square and admonish this clear and obvious political posturing as it is a betrayal of all who have worked tirelessly over the past few years for the betterment of all. I ask the Council to find wisdom and embrace the truly democratic process that has been sitting at your doorstep for two years and quash this continued campaign of distraction.

Good Luck,

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