

# Carolyn Fuller's statement

Carolyn A Fuller <fuller@mit.edu>

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City Clerk Agenda

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

Thank you Mayor Maher and Councilors.

I am Carolyn Fuller and I have lived at 12 Douglass St in the heart of Central Square and very literally in the shadow of these proposed buildings for over 35 years.

Tonight you will hear from many about how much they appreciate the prospect of 47 new below market rate units. I, too, am pleased that we are getting these new affordable units in our neighborhood but there is so much more to this project that I appreciate.

I'm actually a passionate supporter of this project because I truly believe this is an historic moment when we can either embrace significant new housing developments in our core cities near public transportation or continue to push development to exurbia, building ever more MacMansions in our bedroom communities and putting ever more cars onto our super highways. Surely those days, when the almighty car ruled the world, are ending. Surely it is time to return to an earlier point in our history when, as industries rose in our cities, development nearby to support the housing needs for the industry workers also rose. Just as my current home served as housing for the candy factory workers of the 1800s, Mass+Main will serve as housing for the tech workers of tomorrow.

Do we want our public transit over crowded with ever and ever higher numbers of voters clambering for improvements or do we want these same people clambering for bigger and bigger super highways? I welcome the 21st century factory workers into my backyard because I want a cleaner environment for my grandchildren. I want better public transportation NOW and I want fewer MacMansions in exurbia.

Someone just asked me to add one other point and then I will close. This project will mean that my husband and I will have to replace many of the beautiful plants in our garden with plants that are happier with more shade. To me, this small sacrifice is well worth the advantages to our planet that increasing the population in our cities will bring.

Sincerely,

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