

Support for Mass + Main Proposed Project

Krafian, Ara <akrafian@smma.com>

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City Clerk Agenda

To: City Council <CityCouncil@CambridgeMA.GOV>; Paden, Liza <lpaden@cambridgema.gov>; Maher, David <dmaher@cambridgema.gov>; Benzan, Dennis <dbenzan@cambridgema.gov>; Carlone, Dennis <dcarlone@cambridgema.gov>; Cheung, Leland <lcheung@cambridgema.gov>; Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>; Mazen, Nadeem <nmazen@cambridgema.gov>; McGovern, Marc <mmcGovern@cambridgema.gov>; Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov>; Toomey, Tim <ttoomey@CambridgeMA.GOV>;

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

Dear members of the City Council and Planning Board,

I am writing you to reiterate my support of the Mass + Main proposal put forth by Normandy Real Estate Partners and Twining Properties.

I run a local firm, SMMA, a business that was founded and remains in this neighborhood since 1955, my personal tenure goes back to 1991. We currently have 170 person staff coming to work on Mass Avenue every day, and we plan to be part of this wonderful community for the foreseeable future. I believe adding more housing along Mass Avenue near transit would have a very positive impact on the local economy as well as the streetscape. The streets of Central Square are not always friendly, adding a residence here would help to stabilize the sense of safety and promote the sense of community.

This winter was difficult for local businesses, particularly for our urban commuters. Adding much needed housing within walking distance of local retailers and restaurants is fundamental to the way cities should be, and evidenced with how so many progressive live/work/play cities having flourished of late – It's good for residents, it's good for business and it's great for Central Square and Cambridge.

It is encouraging to hear that developers are proposing to add housing and not more lab or office space. As we all know, housing generates far greater economic impact for the community.

Finally, the proposal suggests that the developer is incorporating a wide-range of affordability as well as unit size, which is vital for Central Square. I look forward to the long term positive impact generated by this and similar projects.

I urge you to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ara Krafian

Ara Krafian, PE

Chairman | CEO

SMMA | Symmes Maini & McKee Associates

1000 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

t: 617.520.9286 | m: 617.513.1068

akrafian@smma.com

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