

5/18/15

Jim Devereux
255 Lakeview Ave

I remain opposed to the Normandy Twining up-zoning petition. Supporters trumpet the "unprecedented" percentage of affordable units the 19-story tower would include -- also unprecedented are the proposed height and density increases far beyond those envisioned by the most recent area planning study, and before any serious attempt to craft a citywide housing plan, a plan which is expected to include long-discussed increases to the inclusionary percentage over and above the amount offered in this deal. I hope 17% for low and moderate income households does not become the new ceiling for when our inclusionary percentage is finally increased. Other cities are already well ahead of us on this front. The end does not justify the means - public officials making an exception of this magnitude need to show greater respect for due process, impartiality and precedent than has been shown here.

specifically
the provision
by which
it's being
shepherded
through to
approval

I support policy order #6 with reservations --

As I testified to the Housing Committee I support raising the nexus fee on commercial developing and expanding the size and types of projects that are subject to the fee. However, when your consultant's study says \$24/s.f. is needed to meet the demand for workforce housing for *future* commercial growth -- and we are already in the hole on prior growth -- I think settling for \$12 is too little, too late. Whatever rate you decide on should be implemented immediately, not in 6 months or a year.

I support policy order #3 -

I support expanding Hubway bike sharing. I think more West Cambridge locations are needed. There should be one that would serve the new developments on Fawcett St. and New St, as well as Fresh Pond Mall and the northwest side of Danehy Park.

I support policy order #11 -

My group, the Fresh Pond Residents Alliance, has been very concerned about the marked increase in low and loud air traffic over West and North Cambridge since last summer. We have been in touch with advocates in other towns and with our state reps. We urge others who are bothered by the increased flight activity to call MassPort's noise

complaint hotline regularly (617-561-3333). The City needs to put its full weight behind advocating at the state level for the restoration of "Fair Skies."

I support policy order #15 -

I'm sure you've heard about how the honeybees that we all depend on to pollinate our nation's food chain are in great peril from the use of pesticides. I support the order to ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides that are most implicated. In the past 18 mos several cities have banned them including Seattle and Eugene OR. Portland OR just suspended use on city land. Cambridge should do the same and be a leader on this issue. Garden stores and nurseries should not sell them either. Brands that contain them are: Bayer All-In-One Rose and Flower Care Concentrate or Ortho MAX Tree and Shrub Insect Control

Finally I have a letter here from Kent Johnson, a friend and resident of North Cambridge on the open data ordinance (that's item #2 on the Manager's agenda). Kent is a software engineer and he has several suggestions for how to strengthen the ordinance to future improve transparency and accountability for the public's interest.