

# FW: Public comments John Sanzone at city council meeting

Crane, Paula

Tue 5/19/2015 9:02 AM

City Clerk Agenda

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

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**From:** John Sanzone [mailto:sanzoneja@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2015 8:08 PM

**To:** Crane, Paula

**Subject:** Public comments at city council meeting

Normandy twining petition. I respect the opinion that the tower is out of scale or out of place but I just don't see it that way. It's a unique site. The proposal at this unique site contributes, it enhances, it improves its site and corner. It's specific human-scale elements are well conceived.

As far as precedent, The planning board's letter states it well, that the implications for rezoning in other sites in Central Sq or around the city is minimal. That is again, because of the unique nature of this site.

These developers and their architects have shown a willingness to design well and to commit to diverse and beneficial uses.

My one complaint is the excessive automobile parking ratio. As I stated at the recent planning board meeting, 15 zipcars maybe with some free memberships and stipends for the affordable units in addition to Hubway memberships, T passes, can serve a huge portion of the mobility needs of future residents and reduce the need for automobile parking on site. The planning boards recommended language for car sharing is a great step. Fabulous. But it's not quite addressing the paradigm. The reason this density makes sense on this site is specifically because it does not need to be automobile oriented.

A little bit of perspective too. I grew up in towns where mayors would give up their first born daughter to get anyone to develop anything, with a lot of unfortunate outcomes. Our public process is superior and tends to arrive at beneficial results but it doesn't have to be a black and white process. We must maximize the quality of design, the economic and demographic contributions that development makes, and general community benefits. But we can do it from a collaborative attitude that celebrates the uniqueness of Cambridge that puts us in a position of having too much investment.

Policy order 8, national day of civic hacking. In the future We should be less reacting to events like this and providing them with our data and instead, proactively shopping our data and problems like our transportation design issues, our economics and planning issues and data, and ask some of the thousands of bright young minds in our borders to please crunch it and hack it

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Sent from my iPhone

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John Sanzone

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