

March 28, 2015

Vice Mayor Dennis Benzan  
Councilor Dennis Carlone  
City of Cambridge Ordinance Committee  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge MA 02139

Dear Mr. Benzan, Mr. Carlone and other Committee Members,

I am personally writing in support of the petition for housing in Central Square at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Main Street just steps away from Kendall Square. For the last 15 years I have been active in an attempt to make all areas of Cambridge, not only East Cambridge but out neighbors in Wellington-Harrington and Area 4 safe to walk at all hours of the day and night. I firmly believe that 'boots on the ground' does it.

When I first returned to Cambridge to live, walking from my home on Third Street to the red line was only viable during the day. There was no development and lots of open areas where one was unaware of what was going on. For me, not a safe walk. Thru efforts of neighbors in East Cambridge, we have used Smart Growth to make that walk safe. Housing and ground floor retail along Third Street have given that area a sense of security.

My support for the housing efforts in Central Square is based on the same concept – Smart Growth. The need for all types of housing, affordable, moderate income and market-rate, is needed. Kendall Square has been built up in the past 10 years and the need for housing is spilling over into adjacent areas. Being able to walk to work keeps cars off the busy streets. Housing also puts 'boots on the ground' in an area quite dark in the evening.

Central Square is different It has a lively feel. Its retail and cultural mix are something that Kendall is striving for. More needed housing in Central will aid the retail businesses already in place and bring along other small ventures to add to the mix.

I firmly support the efforts of Alex Twining to stimulate retail growth by adding one of the necessary components of Smart Growth – housing. His projects in Kendall have enlivened our neighborhood and have had a positive impact. I know his efforts in Central will do the same. He has been a good neighbor and a catalyst for residential and small retail uses in an environment dominated by commercial/lab development. As one of the primary architects for the redevelopment of Kendall Square years ago stated recently in a Boston Globe article – what we need in that area is housing.

Please consider a favorable vote for his petition.

Barbara Broussard  
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