

“Since new developments are the products of a creative mind, we must therefore stimulate and encourage that type of mind in every way possible,” George Washington Carver.

This quote is important to this project, as a community we can make sure that any progress that we make is for the good of all of us and not just a chosen few; we must change but we now have a chance to control the change .

I support Mass and Main. This is not just the right thing to do. This is a necessary effort to help secure our future as a successful community.

I have lived in Cambridge for over 48 years and I am a resident, an African American and a property owner. As a property owner I chose to make my other unit affordable.

Not only have I lived in Cambridge but I grew up in the Central Square and Area 4 neighborhood. My parents are still in Area 4 and my Watson family is still on Green St, which has been there over 67 years. My senior citizen parents still walk up Columbia street to Main St to get to the Star Market, that means they will walk by this property all of the time, it is crucial we bring life and safety back to that corner. Enough about me, most of you know me or my twin sister.

Maintaining Cambridge’s diversity in these challenging times, keeps Cambridge exciting, creative, vibrant and a welcoming hometown. That word hometown is used very loosely these days in Cambridge, because young adults like my son cannot afford to live here, they have to move out, same with tons of families who are striving for better lives and can’t afford median rents. I believe that our

continued success hinges on our ability to protect and strengthen the diversity that built this community.

But here are some sobering facts:

We have "lost" community members not because they wanted to leave but because rents rose so much that they were no longer affordable.

Cambridge's home prices are among the highest in the region.

The median home prices in Cambridge have risen to unbelievable amounts and are still rising. And our population is still growing. So we can only expect that our stock of market affordable housing will continue to dwindle.

Rents and housing prices are rising faster in Cambridge than anywhere else in the region, without ensuring a sufficient supply of lower cost housing, or providing direct financial assistance to families and individuals, low-income households will find it difficult to live in Cambridge and the City will risk diminishing its economic diversity.

And for some reason in Area 4 Affordable housing = "the project's"

Therefore clearly, we must do more if we are to make good on our pledge to remain an inclusive, diverse community where every person is important.

We must take concrete steps, renew and deepen our investment in affordable housing, to ensure that people from all walks of life have a chance to live here, send their kids to our great schools, open businesses and find jobs that pay a decent wage.

We must look for new ways to build creative partnerships with the private sector and ways to make it easier to build affordable housing.

I understand that maintaining a stock of affordable housing is essential to our future, while acknowledging that this challenge is a regional crisis and we will not be able to solve with just one building

alone, but Mass and Main is making an effort that we haven't seen in a long time, that wasn't a housing development/ project in Area 4.

However, as a cantabrigian, I have seen tent city stall advancement that then pushed us to this uncontrollable boom. Let's control this one, by letting this development flourish the way we want it to be, all levels of income, local business, safety to the community and a partner with a reputable business that wants to secure and advance the future of Cambridge, MA.