Caru Associates

Commercial Properties

Carl F. Barron
Ruth L. Barron

June 27, 2012

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ordinance Committee
Cambridge City Hall
Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: REQUEST TO CHANGE ZONING ORDINANCE BY FOREST CITY

Gentlemen:

This letter is written in support of the request from Forest City Commercial Group for a change in the city's Zoning Ordinance that would allow Forest City to construct a building with approximately 260,000 square feet between Blanche Street and Landsdowne Street.

I remember the property now occupied by Forest City in its original condition before it was renovated by them. It was a dilapidated area, largely consisting of either abandoned buildings or utilized as a dump – an extremely unsightly mess. I also remember that there was some highly vocal but limited opposition which, as the realization came of the tremendous improvement that would accrue to all by the new Forest City development, changed to support. Today, Forest City produces a very substantial amount of income in the form of commercial real estate taxes, which benefits all of the residents and businesses in the city. Furthermore, the landscape has changed dramatically, and for the better.

Forest City has also been a good local neighbor and civic contributor. As a matter of fact, the last notable event was the "Taste of Cambridge", which took place on their premises, with their cooperation and permission, and which benefitted our community. In brief, Forest City has proven to be a very good neighbor and deserves favorable consideration from your Board.

There is also the important factor that the new development would produce a very substantial amount of jobs in this area as well as providing much needed housing for both regular market rate and affordable rate tenants. In addition, the substantial income benefits all of our community, since taxes for residential property are often passed in whole or in part through to tenants, and this substantial amount of added revenue helps our regular citizens keep their rents at existing levels, instead of raising them, in this economy.

In brief, I completely support your favorable consideration of their application. I think that all of us would benefit tremendously by it.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Barron

CFB:cms

Cc: George Metzger
Jay Kiely

620 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone (617) 234-0301, FAX (617) 547-6636, carlbarron@aol.com

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