

31 Bates Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
January 25, 2012

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Members of the City Council
City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Maher and Members of the City Council,

I am writing with reference to your upcoming vote on the petition for a proposed curb cut on Wyman Street adjacent to the property of Sasha and Eric Griffiths.

I would like to support the proposed curb cut and encourage you to vote in favor of it.

I have gotten to know Eric and Sasha since my family moved to our home on Bates Street in 2006. The initial introduction was through their fluffy and friendly dog, Hamza, whom they frequently walk by our house. Over the course of the years we have come to know these neighbors as outgoing, kind and down-to-earth. We share an interest in our young children and their education; our conversations frequently revolve around topics such as the merits of the public school system in Cambridge. Eric and Sasha's daughter Shireen is about to enter kindergarten and they have asked my advice about the different elementary schools and the lottery. (My son goes to Haggerty.)

Regarding the proposed curb cut, I feel it is entirely fair and appropriate for the owners of a property that abuts two different streets to have access from both directions. Unlike other dual curb cut proposals before the council, the access is for limited parking only--not to connect and create any kind of driveway pass-thru that could lead to new traffic patterns and noise.

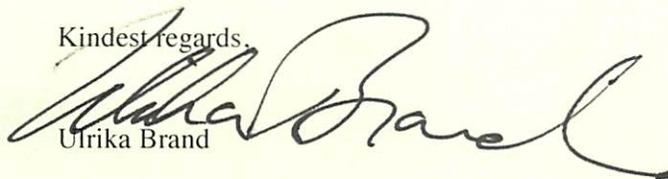
While the house is large, there seems no reason to believe that any additional traffic generated by one additional single car driveway (to be used only occasionally for access to an in-law living area) will seriously disrupt a street that already has several existing driveways.

I know that the neighbors directly behind the property do not oppose the cut and support the petition. Although some neighbors have expressed concern, Eric and Sasha have adjusted their original design in an attempt to address neighborhood concerns.

I understand that the petition has already been approved by multiple city departments with jurisdiction (i.e. Inspectional Services, Traffic, Parking and Transportation and Public Works).

For all the above reasons, I encourage you to vote in favor of the petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Kindest regards,


Ulrika Brand