

City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

January 23, 2012

Dear City Councillors,

My name is Amy Farber, I am a long-term Cambridge resident. I currently live at 87 Garden Street and I am a Cambridge Nursery School (CNS) parent. I am writing to communicate my support the proposed curb cut at 9 Wyman Street. I have tried hard to understand the specific points of opposition to this curb cut. More than anything, I care that decision-making in our town is fair and objective, no matter how this particular issue lands. As hard as I've tried to understand the true issues here through discussion with neighbors, city councillors and reading relevant regulations, I find it difficult to find merit in any of the points that I understand to have been raised to date. This is very problematic from a due process perspective. This aspect of this decision, troubles me most.

People have invoked various aspects of CNS's location and interests as a reason to oppose the curb cut. I drive down Avon Hill Street to drop-off and pick-up my daughter at Cambridge Nursery School each day. I drive by Wyman Street multiple times a day and occasionally park there for school. Based on my experience each weekday, including summers, over the past year and an half, I feel confident that the parking and safety situation in the neighborhood would not be negatively impacted by an additional driveway at 9 Wyman St.

I know some neighbors have voiced concerns about the safety of young children going to CNS with regard to another driveway on Wyman Street. To my knowledge, during the past year and a half, this issue has not been raised within the CNS community. I do not understand the concern. CNS wants to be a good neighbor, but I know that the school has officially taken no official school position on this matter because, aside from wanting to appease all neighbors on all fronts, none of its interests are directly affected by the proposed curb cut. I understand that Eric Griffith, the curb cut petitioner, has reached out to CNS and offered to let parents block the proposed driveway on days where parking is difficult (like street cleaning) while we drop off our children. This is something which, to my knowledge, no one else on the street has offered to do. The gesture is welcome. Importantly, I am impressed by Mr. Griffith's willingness to back his talk and verbal commitments through action. I also understand that Mr. Griffith has agreed to reduce the size of the driveway as one means of trying to address neighbor concerns. I appreciate his willingness to compromise with other neighbors.

My sense based on conversation with neighbors is that some opposition stems from the belief that the petitioner's house is simply too large. I also hear that there is understandable frustration with the lengthy construction process. While these issues are understandable, these are not appropriate reasons to deny a curb cut petition to this family. And I am not alone. It is my clear sense that there are many other people in the area who do not oppose the curb cut.

I sincerely hope you will be voting in favor of this curb cut. This will go far to communicate that such decisions are based on objective criteria and that in this case there is no apparent reason to deny the petition.

Yours Sincerely,
Amy Farber


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