

3

February 6, 2012

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: 9 Wyman Street, Curb Cut (Calendar Item #14 – On the Table)

Dear Councillors:

My wife and I filed an application for a curb cut at our home with the City Clerk on October 20, 2011. In the more than three months that have ensued we have met several times with individuals who have expressed concerns about our Wyman Street driveway and have been actively leading a campaign to oppose it.

Many of those individuals were known to us because of their involvement in opposing our application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Commission back in 2007 when we sought approval to construct our home. That process involved five public hearings over a five month period. When the final Certificate of Appropriateness was issued in October 2007 it included approval for our Wyman Street driveway. In accordance with the terms of that Certificate, the Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation Commission held a further public hearing on June 27, 2011 where they reviewed and approved the final landscaping details and material for our driveway.

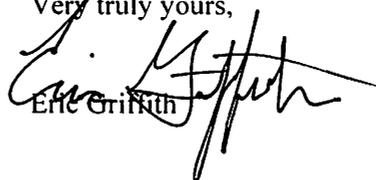
Since our application for a curb cut has been pending before the City Council we have heard from several friends and neighbors on Avon Hill that they have been warned that our driveway will negatively affect the neighborhood since our new home will be used for a corporate or institutional use in the future. In fact, such a claim was contained in a Guest Commentary in last week's *Cambridge Chronicle*. In her commentary, the author claims that it's **"natural to imagine that sooner or later this enormous concrete/glass/marble/wood structure will become a corporate headquarters, retreat center or academy of something or other."**

Our purpose in writing to you is to refute that baseless claim. As residents of Avon Hill for the past twelve years, we want to publicly assure the City Council that we intend to use and occupy this property as our home and not for any other purpose, and that this curb cut will be used to provide access to a single car driveway. Moreover, we also wish to provide written assurance that the principal use of the driveway will be for passenger vehicles and that we shall direct service type vehicles, such as landscapers and contractors, to use our Raymond Street driveway.

Finally, we would willingly accept a condition placed upon the approval of our curb cut that it will be authorized only so long as the property at 79 Raymond Street is used for residential purposes allowed in the Residence A-2 Zoning District, and if any other use were ever permitted to occur, the curb cut approval would be rescinded and the curb would be restored at the property owner's expense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


Eric Griffith