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Lopez, Donna

From: Matt LaRue [mattalarue@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2012 9:49 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Oppose down zoning - copy of letter to city council

Dear City Council,

I originally wrote to you and spoke against the proposed downzoning at the last council meeting. I would now like to reiterate my opposition and add my voice to the group of Cambridge residents who are opposed to the proposed downzoning of Central Square, and ask you to vote against the downzoning petition on the City Council agenda for July 30th.

I am proud of our city's vibrant and diverse urban character. The culture of our lively squares, unique local businesses, openness to innovation, and commitment to sustainable living help make Cambridge one of the most desirable places in the world. I believe that to sustain and nourish the Cambridge we love, we must encourage smart growth that expands housing opportunities, builds local business, and provides greater mobility for residents and visitors in our city.

I oppose downzoning because I believe that new development plays an important role in protecting the diversity and economic vitality of Cambridge. Downzoning will hurt our ability to create the variety of housing types that are needed to meet the needs of all Cambridge families. With such high demand for housing in Cambridge, restricting the development of new low and middle-income housing could force out the working families, seniors, small business owners, artists, and others residents who make our city great.

Please support smart growth policies in Cambridge that provide people the opportunity to live, work, and shop in the same neighborhood.

- Serve the varied needs of Cambridge's diverse households - Appropriate higher density housing will help us meet the ever-high demand for market rate housing while expanding our ability to create affordable 3 or 4 bedroom apartments for families with children or multiple generations.
- Reduce traffic on the roads and rails: Building a mix of activities in our neighborhoods will allowing more people to walk or bike to access their jobs, schools, parks, entertainment, healthcare and other services.
- Align with Cambridge's carbon reduction goals: Smart growth policies reduce automobile emissions and denser, more compact building forms use less fossil fuels to heat and cool.

I hope you will vote against the downzoning of Central Square -- removing restrictions on our community's ability to grow sustainably will foster creativity, innovation, and social interaction among the many types of people that live, work and play here. Please join me in planning for a shared and vibrant future for our community.

Sincerely,

Matthew LaRue
88 School Street