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Lopez, Donna

From: Cindy Marsh [cjean.mm@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 1:10 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: Vote No on Forest City

Dear City Councilors,

I was able to attend about an hour of the meeting on the Forest City development in Central Square last night. While most of the people who spoke during that time were expressing honest distress about Forest City's seeming immunity from accountability to the City and its residents, I didn't hear enough about the un/suitability of this area for a biolab development (especially a Novartis lab, not known as a good corporate citizen).

How could this area be considered a suitable setting for labs? Is the nature of the research the reason for the lack of concern? Has there been a clear, honest, public analysis? I understand MIT feels a territorial imperative to expand into Central Square, which must be hard to oppose. Even so, the rest of Cambridge will not be immune to the effects of mishandled research from any of the labs in Kendall Square, should the more immediate residents (and researchers themselves) not be of concern. How many of the parties who will benefit most actually live in Cambridge?

Of the people I know who are Cambridge residents, almost all had no idea about the development or about the meeting. My strong impression is that this is exactly what the developer wants. Please delay approval of this project until Cambridge has received a reliable public accounting from Novartis on all concerns. With such great profits to be had, a greater concern for all the citizens who will be affected surely is warranted.

Thank you for your time and attention.
Cindy Marsh