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Lopez, Donna

From: Chris Matthews [cmatthews@mvvainc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: City Manager Item 8

I am writing to express my concern about the City Manager item #8 on Monday night's Council agenda. The Manager requests that $25,000 be allocated from the Novartis mitigation funds to be used to cover part of the City's costs of participating in BIO 2012. I feel very strongly that the City should not use mitigation funds received from Novartis or any other development to pay for the City's participation in the conference. Mitigation is negotiated in recognition of the impact of a development on a neighborhood, group of neighborhoods or the entire City. I do not see how funding the City's participation in the BIO 2012 Conference mitigates the impact of the Novartis development on the neighborhoods impacted by the development.

This issue highlights many of the reasons why I have issues with using cash payments to the City as a form of mitigation payment. Some people are concerned that the mitigation funds received in this manner will not be spent to benefit the neighborhoods impacted by the development. This request appears to support those concerns. Ideally, the Manager would make the request for funds to cover the cost of the City participating in this important conference from another source and leave the mitigation funds available to benefit the neighborhoods impacted by the Novartis development.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Chris Matthews
Vice President, East Cambridge Planning Team

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