

40

## Lopez, Donna

---

**From:** Nancy Ryan [nancyryan4@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2012 4:01 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Lopez, Donna  
**Subject:** Expiring Use Housing in University Park/CRDD

Dear Cambridge City Council Members – It was disturbing to discover at last night’s Ordinance Committee meeting that 150 of the units of University Park/Cambridgeport Revitalization Development District are deemed expiring use “for a period of not less than thirty (30) years.” The document states that the City Council adopted the stipulations for the CRDD on February 9, 1987. It appears these “low-income” and “moderate income” units could expire in five (5) years. You and we need to know exactly when the clock began ticking and when these units will be at risk. But more importantly, were you even aware that the clock was ticking?

100 of those units are deemed “low income” and 50 are designated as “moderate income” units for first-time home-buyers. The Forest City Corporation has been citing its significant build-out of affordable housing units in University Park as a major tenet of its bona fides to support its petition to up-zone its block on Massachusetts Avenue without mentioning the expiring use of this large sector of its housing.

I hope you are as furious as I am that you received this complex document last night just prior to your Ordinance Committee meeting and that the reality of expiring use housing was never raised in the many meetings during which the Forest City project has been discussed. This raises not only the credibility of Forest City but that of the City’s Community Development Department. Surely, CDD was aware of this stipulation. And if not, WHO is monitoring and ensuring compliance with the so-called “community benefits” that are negotiated with developers?

We have a crisis of confidence in the governance of the City. Residents cannot believe that we are being provided with all relevant information to participate in the management and future of our neighborhoods. It seems possible as well that you, our elected officials, cannot assume that you have the tools you need to make decisions that will affect our neighborhoods for decades.

It is almost inconceivable that any of you who cares about housing could vote for this petition as things stand on Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Ryan

---

Nancy Ryan  
[nancyryan4@comcast.net](mailto:nancyryan4@comcast.net)  
617-868-1334