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Drury, Margaret

From: Emily Scott [escottdesign@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 11:39 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Drury, Margaret
Subject: Please Vote Bishop Petition Now

Dear Cambridge City Councilors:

My grandmother lived in Cambridge for over 40 years. My mother grew up in Cambridge. I've lived in Cambridge on and off since 1981, and I have lived in North Cambridge since 2004. I love the city, I love my neighborhood, and I very much want to keep loving them. Unfortunately, North Cambridge is at risk of losing some of the qualities that make the neighborhood so love-able and live-able.

Large developments are currently underway throughout North Cambridge (and in nearby Somerville), including two located very close to where I live, and one on my street at the site of Cambridge Lumber. I have nothing against development, and I know that done right, it can bring economic benefits to local businesses, and potentially improve property values. Done wrong, however, it can overwhelm and permanently alter a neighborhood for the worse. Aside from temporary headaches related to the construction process, inappropriately-sized developments can bring long-term problems in parking, traffic, noise, maintenance, pollution, and safety.

I urge you to take a closer look at the overdevelopment in progress, especially the planned 104-unit 4-story apartment buildings slated for the Fawcett Oil parcel. Consider that my neighborhood is primarily made up of one- & two-family homes, with a few low-profile multi-unit buildings. The Alewife wetlands and Minuteman Trail are in close proximity. The giant buildings of the Fawcett Oil development are the wrong size and scope for this neighborhood, and the City needs to put on the brakes.

Please Vote the Bishop Petition now! It will reduce the scope of the Fawcett Oil development by 30%, and make reductions negotiated at the Cambridge Lumber site permanent. I hope I can count on you to do the right thing, and to do it quickly.

Sincerely,
Emily Scott
69 Harvey Street
Cambridge, MA 02140