

Drury, Margaret

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From: C. Shipley [mc.shipley@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 3:02 PM
To: Henrietta Davis; Simmons, Denise; Toomey, Tim (home); Craig Kelley; Maher, David; Decker, Marjorie; Reeves, Ken; Cheung, Leland; Minka VB
Cc: City Council; Drury, Margaret
Subject: All Cambridge Neighborhoods Should be Served
Importance: High

FOR THE RECORD:

To The Honorable, the City Council:

To: Mayor Henrietta Davis
Vice-Mayor Denise Simmons
City Councillors

With regard to the city manager's letter dated 2/27/12 sent in a most timely fashion in response to City Council Policy Order 9, of 2/13/12, and further to my email of 2/24/12, may I offer the following:

Riverside residents have told me in the last two days that they are not happy with the city manager's proposal in the above referenced letter. In fact, they are angry that they will not have a King Neighborhood Council and Community School any more*. For reason of civility and a certain propriety, I will say nothing further about their reactions. (*We all know from past experience that no Community School that has been cut has ever been restored.)

The city manager's proposal will deprive the Riverside neighborhood of a program that has served two schools (King and the Amigos) of several hundred children per quarter, seniors and adults in the hundreds, and hundreds of families in many, many programs over the last 30 years. In the 20+ years I have been a part of the citywide group of all Neighborhood Councils, the membership of the King Neighborhood Council has included people who were members of the council since before my tenure. The King Neighborhood Council is very active and very strong. The city manager has made no promise to return their Neighborhood Council and Community School to them after the incredible 4 years it will take to build a new school.

However, I will pass on to you one particular viewpoint that Riverside residents conveyed to me in conversations, and that is that this decision seems like discrimination to them since Riverside is largely a neighborhood of minorities and families who find themselves in the lower income brackets of all Cambridge residents. In getting to know the residents of Riverside over the years, I have learned that many of the black families have been living in Riverside for 8 or more generations. Without scanning my address book, I can think, off the top of my head, of at least one family where 4 generations live in the same house today.

Therefore, I ask that because the Riverside neighborhood has not been informed of this proposal, that you, the City Council, postpone any action of the city manager letter on this topic dated 2/27/12 until such time that the Riverside neighborhood has had time to respond.

On behalf of all the Community School Neighborhood Councils, thank you.
Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Shipley
Chair, Citywide Community School Council
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