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October 3, 2012

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139

To The Honorable, The City Council:

We **strongly oppose** the Yanow downzoning petition.

Retailers, residents and property owners all want Central Square to be a vibrant "downtown" for anyone who lives, works, shops, or visits.

We believe ensuring that Central Square continues to grow and thrive requires that future development achieve community goals for more housing, improved infrastructure, mixed-use community-oriented retail, improved public space and benefits.

For the past two years a public process involving all of the stakeholders has been debating these issues and will soon make its recommendations.

The Yanow petition will derail this public process by imposing downsizing measures that **suffocate** the vitality of Central Square rather than enhance it.

The petition is not based on a broad consensus and does not seek a balanced view on Central Square's future. It simply downzones the majority of Central Square District and freezes the many city owned parking lots for the foreseeable future.

Adoption of the Yanow petition sends a clear message to retailers and property owners that their businesses **will not grow** in Central Square. It reverses the progress toward shared goals of a vibrant, active and populated "downtown" Central Square.

The Yanow petition **must be defeated** so that progress for strategically planning a bright future for Central Square can continue.

Respectfully,

Harry N. Katis

George H. Katis

Properties owned in or close to Central:

- 567-569 Massachusetts Ave
- 704-730 Massachusetts Ave
- 349-357 Green St
- 304-310 Western Ave
- 90 Hamilton St