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Good Evening,

I am unable to attend this evenings meeting, but I have asked this letter to be read in my absence. My name is Toni LaRosa and I am the Property Manager for the Cambridge YMCA. I manage 128 Single Room Occupancy Units. I have been the Property Manager for 5 years and before that I was the Assistant Property manager for 2 years. I am asking the City Council to vote in favor of 80-10-10 for Affordable Housing, Open Space and Historical Preservation.

Without affordable housing, so many individuals and families would be homeless and lost. Many of us can't imagine what it's like to go without a roof over our heads. We all take our homes for granted. We shouldn't. So many people do not have that. My property may be only a single unit for men in the physical sense, but I have been told hundreds of times it is much more than that. It is a home. It is a place where you can feel safe. It's your own, you have a key, and you can lock up your belongings. You can take a shower and have a meal. That is a wonderful feeling for someone who is coming off of the street or from a shelter.

I look around my property and I'm grateful that we will be receiving CPA funds. We are in desperate need of a remodel. We need new windows, bathrooms, heating units, flooring and a fresh coat of paint. These basic necessities will do wonders for us. My residents and I are so grateful to the committee and to all the organizations that have given us funds to make this possible.

Thank you,