

25 February 2014

To Mayer David Maher

Dear Mr. Maher,

I recently submitted a letter to the Cambridge City Council regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Sullivan Courthouse at 40 Thorndike Street. (<http://40thorndike.org/Abigail-Lewis-Bowen.pdf>).

I'm writing to follow up on this with you, and ask for your support in delaying the development, specifically to deny the request for parking spaces in the adjacent municipal garage on Thorndike (and Spring) Streets, which is tied to the continuation of this effort.

I have joined the Neighborhood Association of East Cambridge which seeks a better plan for the mitigation of the size and usage of the building, as well as a deeper and more participatory process than has heretofore been seen.

While I am very active in the East Cambridge community, I have been somewhat peripherally connected to the EC Planning Team on this matter. But the recent injection of energy and thinking on this development has convinced me that we are undoubtedly at unique moment to achieve substantive change to the size and appearance of this horrible structure.

NA East Cambridge is a well-organized and reasonable group — and find key members are serious about presenting concerns on both legal and procedural grounds in order to achieve a better outcome for the neighborhood.

If we can count on your support to help steer this effort to a better conclusion it would be much appreciated.

Community members will be meeting at the East Cambridge Planning Team meeting which is tomorrow, Wednesday February 26 at 7 p.m. at the East End House. In addition, the group will be presenting their concerns at the March 4 meeting of the Cambridge Planning Board, when they will ask the PB to deny the special permit requested by developer Legatt McCall.

I'm happy to answer any questions or provide more information via email or phone.

Thanks very much for your help,

Regards,

Abigail Lewis-Bowen

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