

Paden, Liza

From: Ben Morse [benjamin.morse@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 11:36 AM
To: Paden, Liza; City Council
Cc: Abe Lateiner; Caitlin Lowans
Subject: Court house redevelopment

Hello,

I am writing to express deep concern about the proposed redevelopment of the Courthouse building in East Cambridge. As an East Cambridge resident (and a Cambridge and Somerville resident for years before that), I have always considered the building a blight on an otherwise charming neighborhood. To perpetuate its size and privatize its use will only worsen the problem.

I am especially concerned that this building, whose land was expressly committed to public use, has now been sold to a private corporation. This seems at best a betrayal of the neighborhood, and possibly illegal. Furthermore, its massive, out-of-scale size was only permitted due to the public nature of its use. If Leggat McCall does get to develop the site, they must do so within local zoning laws for *private* construction.

Our neighborhood already has a horrible crush of traffic at rush hour due to the nearby highway, T station, and the mall. Bringing in more parking spaces for this development will worsen the problem.

Also, the "shiny future" aesthetic that is creeping into our area from Kendall Square is already gross, and will look embarassingly outdated very soon. I am concerned that another eager developer will bring that garish look to the middle of East Cambridge.

East Cambridge is already experiencing a slow but sure financial growth -- witness the recent influx of businesses on Cambridge St. and 3rd St. I have already seen longtime families leaving the area. What we do *not* need is an expensive condo/office space catapulting this development into outright gentrification.

For all these reasons, please deny Laggat McCall the special permits requested, and consider taking any steps possible to reverse the possibly illegal sale of the land to that corporation.

Thanks,
Ben Morse
Hurley St.