

**Subject:** DCAMM selection for Sullivan Courthouse redevelopment

**From:** Seth Teller <teller@csail.mit.edu>

**Date:** 1/9/2013 11:49 PM

**To:** Carole Cornelison <Carole.Cornelison@MassMail.State.MA.US>

**CC:** Barbara Broussard <barbarabroussard@gmail.com>, "Dana J. Harrell" <dana.harrell@state.ma.us>, Nancy Loeb <nancy.loeb@state.ma.us>, David Sullivan <David.E.Sullivan@state.ma.us>, Glen Shor <glen.shor@state.ma.us>, Cambridge City Council <council@cambridgema.gov>, Donna Lopez <dlopez@cambridgema.gov>, Alice Wolf <alice@alicewolf.org>, Thomas Grillo <tgrillo@bizjournals.com>, Paul McMorrow <pmcmorrow@massinc.org>, Erin Baldassari <ebaldassari@wickedlocal.com>

To: Carole Cornelison <[Carole.Cornelison@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:Carole.Cornelison@MassMail.State.MA.US)>  
Commissioner, Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

Re: DCAMM selection for Sullivan Courthouse redevelopment

Cc: Dana J. Harrell, Nancy Loeb, David Sullivan, Glen Shor, Henrietta Davis, E. Denise Simmons, Leland Cheung, Marjorie C. Decker, Craig Kelley, David P. Maher, Kenneth E. Reeves, Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Minka vanBeuzekom, Donna Lopez, Sal DiDomenico, Alice Wolf, Deval Patrick, Tim Murray, Thomas Grillo, Paul McMorrow, Erin Baldassari

Dear Commissioner Cornelison,

We write this open letter as residents of East Cambridge who are involved in planning activities as part of the East Cambridge Planning Team (ECPT). We were dismayed to learn that DCAMM has selected Leggat McCall's bid for redevelopment of the Sullivan Courthouse.

We and about one hundred other East Cambridge residents attended presentations by the three designated finalists on the evening of August 22, 2012. The consensus opinion of those attending was that Leggat McCall did not present a thoughtful or professional proposal for development of this important site. Our vote afterward reflected this consensus: HYM was the favorite, receiving 78 of the #1 votes; DivcoWest received 11 #1 votes; and Leggat McCall came in third with only a handful of votes.

We write to ask you whether you and others at the decision-making level were aware of residents' opinions when you made your selection. If our preferences were not incorporated into your decision, can you tell us what criteria you did use? On what date was DCAMM's decision made internally? Why was a reuse study not undertaken for the site?

The existence of the Courthouse in our neighborhood is widely regarded as a major error, and a blight on East Cambridge. (Indeed your own Deputy Commissioner Dana Harrell acknowledged as much at an ECPT meeting.) Can you tell us to what extent, if any, that fact was taken into account in DCAMM's decision?

We formally request that DCAMM re-open the selection process and take our views into consideration. We think that it is unacceptable that you have not acknowledged two previous letters on this topic sent to your attention on behalf of the ECPT. Pursuant to the Commonwealth's Public Records Access Regulations, we request that you, as the Commissioner of DCAMM, acknowledge this letter as a formal request for responses to the questions above. We also request any and all DCAMM communications or documents (in paper form, electronic, or otherwise) regarding the deliberations that led to DCAMM's selection of Leggat McCall.

We hope that a productive dialogue can occur between DCAMM and our community. We would be happy to meet with you or your staff at any regularly scheduled ECPT meeting (typically these occur every other Wednesday evening), or in your offices during business hours if you prefer. Please tell us how you wish to proceed.

Sincerely,

Seth Teller <[teller@mit.edu](mailto:teller@mit.edu)>  
Barbara Broussard <[barbarabroussard@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabroussard@gmail.com)>

Copied:

Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM)  
Deputy Commissioner Dana J. Harrell <[dana.harrell@state.ma.us](mailto:dana.harrell@state.ma.us)>  
General Counsel Nancy Loeb <[nancy.loeb@state.ma.us](mailto:nancy.loeb@state.ma.us)>

Executive Office for Administration and Finance (ANF)  
General Counsel David Sullivan <[David.E.Sullivan@state.ma.us](mailto:David.E.Sullivan@state.ma.us)>  
Secretary Glen Shor <[glen.shor@state.ma.us](mailto:glen.shor@state.ma.us)>

Cambridge City Council  
Henrietta Davis  
E. Denise Simmons  
Leland Cheung  
Marjorie C. Decker  
Craig Kelley  
David P. Maher  
Kenneth E. Reeves  
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.  
Minka vanBeuzekom

[<council@cambridgema.gov>](mailto:council@cambridgema.gov)

Donna Lopez, Interim City Clerk, City of Cambridge  
[<dlopez@cambridgema.gov>](mailto:dlopez@cambridgema.gov)

State Senator Sal DiDomenico  
<http://www.saldidomenico.com/index.php/contact>

State Representative Alice Wolf  
[<alice@alicewolf.org>](mailto:alice@alicewolf.org)

Governor Deval Patrick  
Lt. Governor Tim Murray  
<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituentservices/contact>

Thomas Grillo, Real Estate Editor, Boston Business Journal  
[<tgrillo@bizjournals.com>](mailto:tgrillo@bizjournals.com)

Paul McMorrow, Associate Editor, Commonwealth Magazine  
[<pmcmorrow@massinc.org>](mailto:pmcmorrow@massinc.org)

Erin Baldassari, Assistant editor, Cambridge Chronicle  
[<ebaldassari@wickedlocal.com>](mailto:ebaldassari@wickedlocal.com)