

<Name and Address>

Dear <elected official>,

I would like to voice my vigorous opposition to the Leggett McCall proposal for the Sullivan Court House, 40 Thorndike St, Cambridge, MA 02141.

Let me start by quoting just retired City Manager Robert Healy, "I think it truly is best imploded", speaking of the Sullivan court house to the City Council in May 2010. And Councilor Toomey who said he would "like to see the building destroyed", Boston Globe, May 25, 2010.

I second their conclusion. After 40 years of having endure the blight of this singularly awful, brutalist fiasco of a building, it would be best imploded. The proposed reuse by Leggett McCall in no way remedies, nor in any way could it, the weight of its negative impact. Let's go through some of the them:

1. Traffic and Parking: East Cambridge has and is continuing to see an incredible amount of office space development, as is the rest of Cambridge. As a consequence, from 7:30a to 9a and 4p to 6:30p street congestions are so heavy that third street sees a bumper to bumper car snail extending from Binney street to McGrath highway (see attached pictures). I don't have to explain how parking is impacted, you are well aware of this issue.
2. Noise and Light pollution: An office building this height and conception, all glass, will impact the entire East Cambridge neighborhood. Both by the incredible amount of additional light it would emit and noise it would generate.
3. Community Development: One of the biggest challenge facing Cambridge in the decades to come is how to maintain the diversity of our community. The lack of low and middle income housing enabling families to live and work in Cambridge is a significant problem. The usual, here the proposed mixed use of office and 24 1,000 sqft 2 bedrooms units, exacerbates the issue.
4. Community: Cambridge is composed of human scale neighborhoods. Be it East Cambridge, Central Square, North Cambridge or West Cambridge, Alewife being the only exception. Single family to triple deckers houses line our streets, they enable us to know our neighbors, they are the fabric of our communities. In this context, projects of this size should not be and, as per zoning, are not allowed. They should conform to zoning at a max height of 80ft, no exception. The future of the court house should strengthen our community. The mere existence of the court house does the opposite and the current proposal makes it worse.

I am therefore urging you to do all that is in your power to stop the Leggett McCall special permit. This would reboot the process and allow for a human scale project, inline with the needs of our communities, to arise.

Ilan Levy

<Name and Address>

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Third Street: Binney Street To Sullivan Court House



Third Street: Court House to Cambridge Street.

<Name and Address>