

To: Liza Paden lpaden@cambridgema.gov
[Cambridge Planning Board]
Council@cambridgema.gov
[Cambridge City Council]
Bmurphy@cambridgema.gov
[Head of Community Development]

Re: East Cambridge Courthouse re-development at 40 Thorndike Street,
Cambridge

Dear Cambridge Public Servants,

I am a resident of Cambridge and live at 101 Third Street.

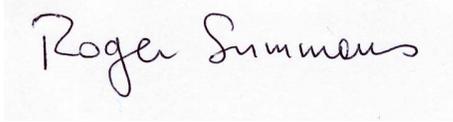
I have reviewed the proposal for the redevelopment of the East Cambridge Courthouse at 40 Thorndike Street and have many, many concerns about traffic, wind, noise, light pollution and the further degradation of civic amenity in this part of the city. As an example, I am particularly concerned about increased pedestrian traffic between Kendall Square and the Thorndike St redevelopment. The sidewalks north of Binney St are narrow exceedingly in the vicinity of Charles St to the point that people cannot pass each other easily and safely. This is especially the case after snow. I see nothing in the development plan to deal with this. I could name many other overlooked issues.

As this project comes before you for consideration and approval, please act decisively to enhance the quality of the neighborhood and the life of the East Cambridge residents.

The existing Sullivan Courthouse is universally loathed in this city. It contravenes all reasonable standards of architectural style, height and bulk in the historic district of East Cambridge. It should have been demolished and replaced with a structure more in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. However, I also understand that this seems no longer possible. Still, I note that the planned re-development by Legatt McCall does absolutely nothing to ameliorate the problems inherent in the existing structure. If re-developed into private office, retail and residential uses, the building would then host far more employees, visitors and residents than the previous courthouse ever did. This will exert significant new pressures on the neighborhood infrastructure, swamping traffic and parking facilities and compromising utilities and open spaces, etc. There are also the issues with light pollution, noise and wind coming from the building; these are bad enough now but could be significantly worsened if the re-development is not conducted sensitively, lawfully and in ways that optimize the amenity for all citizens of Cambridge.

I am very concerned about these issues and petition you to make sure the developer and City adequately address all of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Summons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'S'.

Roger Summons
February 9th 2014
101 Third St., #2
Cambridge MA 02141