

Linden Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.

February 2, 2021

By Email

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
council@cambridgema.gov

Re: MXD Amendments (APP 2020 #35)

Dear Councillors:

On behalf of the Linden Park Neighborhood Association, we want to thank the Council for its consistent efforts over the last 18 months to relocate Eversource's proposed substation for Kendall Square. Between the benefits from this petition and those from Alexandria's zoning petition last year, the East Cambridge and Wellington-Harrington neighborhoods stand to benefit from (among others) the completion of the Grand Junction Multi-use Path, open space above an underground substation, and Eversource's land on Fulkerson Street that will be given to the City to be used for a public purpose. The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority has also committed to building 20,000 sf of affordable housing somewhere in Cambridge. These are great outcomes.

As conversations about the Fulkerson land begin, we appreciate the Manager's commitment to a public process, and we respectfully request that the City find a use that makes that land publicly available to everyone. Despite the benefits from the MXD and Alexandria's amendments, these upzonings also come with a very real cost to the two neighborhoods. The new buildings will add about 1.2 million square feet of commercial lab space (800,000 for MXD and 400,000 for Alexandria), adding thousands of new daily commuters and increased congestion through our already overcrowded streets. This is on top of the other substantial commercial development already planned for Kendall Square. While we generally view this development as a good thing, our neighborhoods are among the densest in America, and they suffer from a lack of green and open space. What little space we have is often small or unusually shaped (such as Triangle Park and "Porkchop" Park), limiting the possible uses.

The Fulkerson land presents a unique opportunity for the City to design something special for the two neighborhoods and in a way that offsets the high cost of recent development and increased density to the abutting neighborhoods. Located near Ahern Field, the Kennedy-Longfellow School, and the future Grand Junction Pathway, there is ample accessibility for people of all ages. Further, Alexandria is contemplating open space on its abutting parcel, which will house subsurface geothermal wells. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make this public benefit a reality.

Linden Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Thank you again for your work on our behalf.

Very Truly Yours,



Jim Gray
President
Linden Park Neighborhood Assn



Matthew Connolly
Vice President & Secretary
Linden Park Neighborhood Assn



Jason Stockmann
Treasurer
Linden Park Neighborhood Assn

cc: Louis DePasquale, City Manager
Todd Lanham, Eversource
Tom Evans, Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
Michelle Lower, Alexandria