



Steering Committee Members

Maria LaPage, Agassiz Baldwin
Community

Elissa Spelman, Breakthrough
Greater Boston

Darrin Korte, Cambridge
Community Center, Inc.

Elaine DeRosa, Cambridge
Economic Opportunity Committee

Bob Gittens, Cambridge Family and
Children's Service

Eva Martin Blythe, YWCA
Cambridge

Jane Hirschi, CitySprouts

Eryn Johnson, Community Art
Center, Inc.

Gail S. Packer, Community Dispute
Settlement Center

John Froio, Community Legal
Services and Counseling Center

Michael Delia, East End House

Ben Clark, Enroot (Formally
Cambridge Community Services)

Sasha Purpura, Food For Free

Elaine Schear, Friends of Cambridge
Rindge and Latin

Christina Alexis, Margaret Fuller
Neighborhood House

Joan Squeri, The Union Partnership
for a Whole Community

Risa Mednick, Transition House

Kathryn Fenneman, Tutoring Plus of
Cambridge, Inc

TO: LOUIS DEPASQUALE, CITY MANAGER
LISA PETERSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
IRAM FAROOQ, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
CHRIS COTTER, HOUSING DIRECTOR
CASSIE ARNAUD, HOUSING PLANNER
MEMBERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

FROM: CAMBRIDGE NONPROFIT COALITION (CNC) STEERING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: VAIL COURT

DATE: JULY 19, 2017

CC: MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

We are writing on behalf of the Cambridge Non-Profit Coalition (CNC) Steering Committee in support of the city's efforts to build affordable housing on the Vail Court site.

The CNC Steering Committee applauds the city and the City Council for its bold move to take the Vail Court property by eminent domain for the purpose of building affordable housing. Cambridge is experiencing an affordable housing crisis and the development of the Vail Court site presents a real opportunity to respond to that need.

The CNC Steering Committee is comprised of eighteen non-profit agencies and organizations from across the City. Our agencies and organizations serve a diverse population of thousands of low-income individuals and families. On behalf of our program participants, we recommend that the city maximize the use of the land to create mixed types of affordable housing to meet the diverse needs of those in Cambridge seeking affordable housing. This would include: three and four bedroom apartments to meet the critical need of many households who are under-housed; smaller one and two-bedroom apartments; and housing for currently homeless individuals, with supportive wrap around services. Those already living in shelters should be offered the ability to transfer into this permanent housing once completed.

The Central Square area is a perfect place for affordable housing as it is accessible to public transportation and critical services provided by many nonprofit organizations engaged with the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition, like food pantries, child care services, and much more. The CNC Steering Committee realizes that we are very early in the planning process and look forward to continued opportunities for input and to comment on the future of the development.

Sincerely,
CNC Steering Committee