



April 10, 2006
Fenway Community Development Corporation
73 Hemenway Street, Boston, MA 02115
www.fenwaycdc.org, 617.267.4637

Boston City Council
One City Hall Square - Fifth Floor, Boston, MA, 02201
617-635-1185, 617-635-3734 fax
D. Paul Koch, Jr.
Liaison, Committee on Government Operations
paul.koch@cityofboston.gov

“Boston City Council’s Committee on Government Operations
Docket #0105

**HOME RULE PETITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON
TO EXCHANGE A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND”**

Paul,

Please accept the following statement at the subject City Council hearing. As I am sure the people present are aware the hearing is scheduled for opening day at Fenway, which many regard as an unofficial Boston holiday. I tend to err on the sporting side of this issue.

Fenway CDC is a neighborhood-based membership organization devoted to enhancing the stability, sustainability and diversity of the Fenway neighborhood of Boston by providing opportunities for all Fenway residents, particularly those of limited means, to thrive in the community. We accomplish this by developing affordable housing, linking neighbors with jobs and training opportunities, providing services to families and elders, and organizing residents to have a strong voice in their community’s future.

I strongly urge the City Council to reject the Forsyth’s proposal for any exchange of parcels of land.

To date, Forsyth has made no proposal for the use of this land that has had any support within the adjacent residential community. Currently, there is no Article 80 proposal put forward by Forsyth to explain their use of the acquired land. Negotiations between the Forsyth Institute and the residents of the neighborhood have been going on since 2004. I have attached two previous letters that I have written concerning past Forsyth proposals to illustrate the depth of disagreement between the past proposals and the community interests.

The community has insisted that Forsyth present a proposal that would not require a land exchange. In response to an earlier Forsyth submission to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), MEPA also made the presentation of this proposal by Forsyth a requirement for further project consideration. A representative of the Forsyth Institute deflected this need to present this proposal at a recent, March 30, 2006, Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting, which I attended, saying, “That proposal was for an oval shaped building. We’ve already withdrawn that proposal and

Our Vision:

Fenway CDC strives to lead and inspire our community to work together to enrich and sustain the Fenway neighborhood as one that welcomes diversity and includes housing for all incomes, economic opportunities for all residents, resident-oriented business, inviting open space, pedestrian-oriented streets, and a strong sense of community.



therefore we do not have to respond to the MEPA comments regarding it.”

Also at the March 30, 2006 IAG meeting, a Forsyth representative stated that the land they proposed to give up is the same size, just as valuable and just as build-able as the park land that they hope to acquire from the city. Taking these statements at face value, there is therefore logically no need for Forsyth to even want to make an exchange.

Without any feasible plans to use the land they seek to acquire from the city, that there is no merit to this request.

Sincerely,

Marc Laderman
Board Member, Fenway CDC
IAG Member
87 Gainsborough Street

Enclosures:

1. 041008 Forsyth.doc
2. 050706 Forsyth.doc

Copy:

Via e-mail

Carl Koechlin, Executive Director, Fenway CDC, ckoechlin@fenwaycdc.org

Jaime Smith, Fenway CDC, <mailto:jsmith@fenwaycdc.org>

Walter Hunt, Board Member, Fenway CDC, walterhunt@msn.com

Kristin Schneider, Board Member, Fenway CDC, kschneider@AdaptiveEnvironments.org

Steve Wolf, Board Member, Fenway CDC, steve.wolf@godyclancy.com

Sajed Kamal, 114 The Fenway, arskamal@compuserve.com

Richard Orareo, 114 The Fenway, shroudie@att.net

Ted Joyce, 114 The Fenway, EdwCJoyce@aol.com

Helen Cox, CoxHelen@aol.com

Lauren Dewey-Platt, lauren_deweyplatt@hms.harvard.edu

Kathleen Devine, kathleen.devine@verizon.net

Michael Ross, Boston City Council, michael.ross@ci.boston.ma.us

Via fax

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