

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 the following concerns.

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

At 22 stories and over 500,000 square feet, this building is grossly out of scale and character with the surrounding residences, (which as you know, are predominantly 2-3 stories). If redeveloped into private office/retail/residential uses the building would then host far more employees/visitors/residents than the courthouse ever did and exert major pressures on the neighborhood infrastructure, swamping traffic and parking facilities and compromising utilities and open spaces, etc. There is also an issue with the effect the building will have on light pollution in the immediate vicinity – with solar glare problems (if the building will have a glass façade as proposed).

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

Many thanks for your attention to these concerns, and for your public service.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Simmons
February 9th 2014
101 Third St., #2
Cambridge MA 02141