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To the Honorable, the City Council:

The undersigned hereby petition the City Council of the City of Cambridge to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge by adjusting the existing ability of the Superintendent of Buildings to issue fines for violations of the Zoning Ordinance. This will not only save the city the expense of the current cumbersome court process but also accelerates successful compliance with all parts of the Zoning Ordinance. Any alleged violator would also be able to contest any fine though the existing Board of Zoning Appeals process which is far less costly than a court proceeding. Further, the Board of Zoning Appeals decision can be appealed to the court system so no rights are taken away by this change.

This change directly supports the fundamental goals of the Zoning Ordinance as stated in Section 1.30:

It shall be the purpose of this Ordinance ... conserve health ... to conserve the value of land and buildings, including the conservation of an atural resources and the prevention of blight and pollution of the environment; to encourage the most rational use of land throughout the city, including ... the protection of residential neighborhoods from the City.

Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge by doing the following:

Change Section 9.16 from:

Any person, firm or corporation who violates or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance may, upon conviction, be fined a sum not to exceed one hundred dollars for each offense. Each day, or portion of a day, that any violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

to:

Any person, firm or corporation who violates or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance may, upon the discretion of the Superintendent of Buildings, be fined a sum not to exceed the maximum specified in M.G.L. Chapter 40A for each offense. Each day, or portion of a day, that any violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

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