

Riley, Kate

From: Lynne Carvalho Adamian [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:40 PM
To: City Manager; Riley, Kate
Cc: David Adamian
Subject: Tobin Planning-Neighborhood

Dear Mr. DePasquale and Ms. Riley,

We are in the early stages of a global pandemic and the National Guard Armory site on Concord Avenue has not been implemented except as an unused staging area for the planned Tobin school redesign and construction. We, again, encourage the city to acquire and incorporate this adjoining space to the re-designed Tobin School site. If it is not in use during a global pandemic it is not essential as an Armory facility. The city has effectively rented the Armory space during the city construction projects of the last fifteen years and this site has been primarily city construction storage and an expanse of unused parking for over twenty years. There are existing communication avenues that can be broached in trying to negotiate the acquisition of this space. It is well understood that this proposal goes against the city's longtime practice against the re-acquisition of private (not city-owned) land and facilities. As the budget for the new school is at \$240* million there are funds to be channeled towards the Armory site as incorporated into a school and grounds design that encourages less human and traffic density over the multi-programmed site. Rather than staying tethered to a project plan and scope that was green-lighted and marshaled through the "neighborhood and citywide commentary process" under the pre-pandemic period, Cambridge needs to embrace a more thoughtful design of an optimal learning environment; One that is responsive to the current pandemic, one that is forward-thinking to educational needs as they apply to inside and outside, classroom spaces and the limiting of large shared school spaces; one that is put in place based on input from educators, school committee members, students, families and medical professionals, one that is responsive to studies that point towards smaller cohorts and to neighborhood needs around scale and traffic. As abutters to this project, we are appreciative that the city manager's office is readjusting the "planning, design and construction" timetable in the time of a stay at home order and pandemic, and very concerned about the investigative and construction work as it will impact our family quarantining at home and until there is a vaccine for Covid-19. We are home and following medical guidelines and also concerned about experiencing ongoing construction without the ability to be in alternative work or school environments for the bulk of the planned construction workday.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynne Carvalho Adamian
David Adamian