



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

May 20, 2025

To the Members of the Ordinance Committee,

The East Cambridge Community Enhancement Overlay District (ECCE Overlay District) Zoning Petition before us today demonstrates a substantial commitment to East End House (EHH). We fully support the mission and work of East End House, and we recognize the importance of meeting their capital needs and securing a new, permanent location in East Cambridge.

In the spirit of strengthening the overall community impact of this proposal, we respectfully submit the following proposals for consideration as a part of the zoning approval process:

1. We propose that the previously suggested \$500,000 contribution for improvements to Ahern Field and the playground at the Kennedy-Longfellow School instead be allocated as a direct cash contribution to the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC). These funds would support emergency cash grants for families and elderly residents, to be provided upon the receipt of zoning approval. CEOC currently lacks sufficient resources to meet the level of need in the community and this funding would help fill a critical and growing gap.
2. We propose reducing the total "EEH Benefit Dollars" from \$21,200,770 to \$20,000,000 – a reduction of \$1,200,770. Additionally, we propose that the \$50,000 committed to preliminary design feasibility studies for neighborhood planning in East Cambridge also be reduced. Together, this creates a pool of \$1,250,770, which we recommend be distributed equally among the following three organizations, with each receiving \$416,923.33 upon the receipt of zoning approval:
 - Community Art Center
 - Dance Complex
 - Cambridge Community Center

These organizations play vital roles in serving residents across Cambridge, face capital needs, and have not previously received direct funding from Biomed Realty.

We appreciate your consideration of these proposed adjustments which we believe will enhance the overall public benefit of this zoning petition and better reflect the diverse needs of Cambridge.

Sincerely,

E. Denise Simmons
Mayor of Cambridge

Marc C. McGovern
Vice Mayor of Cambridge

Sumbul Siddiqui, Esq.
Cambridge City Councillor

Ayesha M. Wilson
Cambridge City Councillor