

Kimberly Wells

From: Julia [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:30 PM
To: All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Central Hill, Somerville - Elevator and Parking Proposal

Dear city councilors ----

I didn't realize that this elevator pitch wasn't just a social media joke until a neighbor put this in my physical mailbox.

An elevator that is not ADA compliant, and at the cost of both parking, parkland, and flood mitigation, opposing the immediate needs of the neighborhood is ludicrous.

Anyone in favor of it is welcome to go lie down at the low end of Richdale or Essex street during a massive rainstorm, and broadcast themselves insisting flooding is not already a crisis.

I agree with the attached form letter.

Julia Tenney
[REDACTED]

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It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square. ---- (1) I DO NOT SUPPORT funding \$10M on an elevator that still does not provide complete ADA accessibility for the people living and working at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, or accessibility to the Train Station. It is a waste of tax payer dollars, and a slap in the face to the under served area of Gilman Square who has spent the greater part of the last 5 years tirelessly fighting for accessibility. ---- (2) I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field. ---- (3) I DO SUPPORT the development of the Homan's Site as green space with active retail and housing focusing on transit oriented design. ---- (4) I DO SUPPORT the design and development of water and storm water upgrades to combat the extreme flooding that occurs during rain events in Gilman Square and combat the environmental impacts that are contributing to Climate Change. ---- I will close this email out by expressing my extreme disappointment in the Somerville Planning and Engineering Departments subpar efforts to work towards the Neighborhood Plan of Gilman Square currently being updated through a community process. I also believe there is a lack of a standard level of care being provided to the design at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, caused by tunnel vision, lack of communication and transparency, and old school politics. ---- I ask our city councilors to VOTE NO on an elevator that does not provide full ADA accessible access from the bottom of Central Hill to the top of Central Hill. A comprehensive accessibility plan should be developed for the entirety of Central Hill and the Gilman Train Station. ---- I also request our city councilors do not propose or support parking (above or below ground) on the Homan's site until a comprehensive understanding of the impacts to Gilman Square's flooding issues, neighborhood plan, and traffic issues have been studied and that it is determined there will be no negative impacts to Gilman Square.

Kimberly Wells

From: Sanjeev Agrawal [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 11:30 AM
To: City Clerk Contact; All City Council
Subject: Central Hill, Somerville - Elevator and Parking Proposal

Dear city councilors ---- It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square. ---- (1) I DO NOT SUPPORT funding \$10M on an elevator that still does not provide complete ADA accessibility for the people living and working at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, or accessibility to the Train Station. It is a waste of tax payer dollars, and a slap in the face to the under served area of Gilman Square who has spent the greater part of the last 5 years tirelessly fighting for accessibility. ---- (2) I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field. ---- (3) I DO SUPPORT the development of the Homan's Site as green space with active retail and housing focusing on transit oriented design. ---- (4) I DO SUPPORT the design and development of water and storm water upgrades to combat the extreme flooding that occurs during rain events in Gilman Square and combat the environmental impacts that are contributing to Climate Change. ---- I will close this email out by expressing my extreme disappointment in the Somerville Planning and Engineering Departments subpar efforts to work towards the Neighborhood Plan of Gilman Square currently being updated through a community process. I also believe there is a lack of a standard level of care being provided to the design at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, caused by tunnel vision, lack of communication and transparency, and old school politics. ---- I ask our city councilors to VOTE NO on an elevator that does not provide full ADA accessible access from the bottom of Central Hill to the top of Central Hill. A comprehensive accessibility plan should be developed for the entirety of Central Hill and the Gilman Train Station. ---- I also request our city councilors do not propose or support parking (above or below ground) on the Homan's site until a comprehensive understanding of the impacts to Gilman Square's flooding issues, neighborhood plan, and traffic issues have been studied and that it is determined there will be no negative impacts to Gilman Square.

Kimberly Wells

From: Vicky Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 6:21 PM
To: All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Gilman Square

Dear City Councilors,

I understand that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square.

1. I DO NOT SUPPORT funding \$10M on an elevator that still does not provide complete ADA accessibility for the people living and working at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, or accessibility to the Train Station. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars, and a slap in the face to the underserved area of Gilman Square who has spent the greater part of the last 5 years tirelessly fighting for accessibility.
2. I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field.
 - Teachers and City employees have a basic human right to have barrier free access to their classrooms and offices. Parking under the field or somewhere else at the top of the hill will provide accessible parking for teachers and other city staff.
 - Parking at the bottom of Central Hill does not support this statement as the School Street and Medford Street Hills do not meet the slope guidelines of ADA, and therefore is not a viable solution.
3. I DO SUPPORT the development of the Homan's Site as green space with active retail and housing focusing on transit oriented design.
4. I DO SUPPORT the design and development of water and stormwater upgrades to combat the extreme flooding that occurs during rain events in Gilman Square and combat the environmental impacts that are contributing to Climate Change.
 - Flooding issues are a major environmental, financial and health burden on Gilman Square residents and should take priority in any site designs on the Homans Site.
 - One of the major infrastructure projects being planned is a large stormwater retention tank under the Homan's site. Any parking on the Homans site that would preclude the ability for our community flooding issues to be solved should be voted against.

I will close this email out by expressing my extreme disappointment in the Somerville Planning and Engineering Departments subpar efforts to work towards the Neighborhood Plan of Gilman Square currently being updated through a community process. I also believe there is a lack of a standard level of care being provided to the design at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, caused by tunnel vision, lack of communication and transparency, and old school politics.

I ask our city councilors to vote no on an elevator that does not provide full ADA accessible access from the bottom of Central Hill to the top of Central Hill. A comprehensive accessibility plan should be developed for the entirety of Central Hill and the Gilman Train Station.

I also request our city councilors do not propose or support parking (above or below ground) on the Homan's

site until a comprehensive understanding of the impacts to Gilman Square's flooding issues, neighborhood plan, and traffic issues have been studied and that it is determined there will be no negative impacts to Gilman Square.

Thank you,

Vicky Peterson

[REDACTED]

Vicky Peterson ([she](#))

[REDACTED]

Kimberly Wells

From: Tim Houde [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Rich Raiche; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Fwd: Homans site

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Houde** [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Homans site
To: [REDACTED] <citycler@somervillema.gov>, <citycouncil@somervillema.gov>, George Proakis [REDACTED]

Hello City Council, Mr Raiche and Mr. Proakis,

I am writing in response to the city council meeting dated 9/23/21. It was discussed as part of finance committee item L ID#212267 to provide an elevator from the playing field of the high school down to the Gilman Square MBTA station.

Aside from reviewing approving funds for this elevator, the conversation then turned to parking issues for the highschool and the relevance of placing an elevator at this location, and options for providing parking for the high school.

While I support increased in mobility and accessibility in the area as what is currently in scope is woefully inadequate, I oppose the elevator as presented to the council for approval as I do not believe it has been studied thoroughly and does not address all mobility issues in the area. I also vehemently oppose any motion to place high school parking at the homans site.

The High School project elected to not provide additional parking. If it is now determined that the council wants to reverse this decision and now provide additional parking but somehow can't provide it under its current plan, you cannot pass this problem down to other projects and areas near the High school. This will negatively affect residents and planning of this area that has been going on for quite some time.

I suggest that the council reviews the city's plans for this area as it has already been presented to the residents that a water retention tank is being reviewed here to aid in flooding mitigation on Richdale Ave and other areas. Placing the onus of providing high school parking on the homans site not only curtails the planning of this retention tank, but also negatively impacts all the building massing, open space, and streetscape studies that have occurred already by both the city and the residents for several years now. It also negatively affects the success of any future development here.

The lack of parking at the high school parking cannot be a problem simply passed off to other areas in hopes the issue will be resolved. If the council voted in error to not provide additional high school parking, you must now tell your constituents of this mistake and make plans to provide parking below the fields as originally suggested.

Additionally while it is very exciting to see the scale and number of projects occurring in Somerville, it is very frustrating to see that they are designed, discussed, and reviewed piecemeal instead of holistically and on a

larger scale as one affects the other. I feel this accessibility issue as well as the parking could have both been addressed and resolved had the city presented the high school project, the central hill park, the homan's site, the medford st realignment, the Richdale Ave flooding mitigation studies, the Gilman Square MBTA station, and the medford st open space project as one site, instead of several separate ones.

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

Tim Houde



Kimberly Wells

From: David Schrager [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:09 PM
To: All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Central Hill, Somerville - Elevator and Parking Proposal

Dear city councilors,

It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square.

1. I DO NOT SUPPORT funding \$10M on an elevator that still does not provide complete ADA accessibility for the people living and working at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, or accessibility to the Train Station. It is a waste of tax payer dollars, and a slap in the face to the under served area of Gilman Square who has spent the greater part of the last 5 years tirelessly fighting for accessibility.
2. I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field.
 - Teachers and City employees have a basic human right to have barrier free access to their classrooms and offices. Parking under the field or somewhere else at the top of the hill will provide accessible parking for teachers and other city staff.
 - Parking at the bottom of Central Hill does not support this statement as the School Street and Medford Street Hills do not meet the slope guidelines of ADA, and therefore is not a viable solution.
3. I DO SUPPORT the development of the Homan's Site as green space with active retail and housing focusing on transit oriented design.
4. I DO SUPPORT the design and development of water and storm water upgrades to combat the extreme flooding that occurs during rain events in Gilman Square and combat the environmental impacts that are contributing to Climate Change.
 - Flooding issues are a major environmental, financial and health burden on Gilman Square residents and should take priority in any site designs on the Homans Site.
 - One of the major infrastructure projects being planned is a large storm water retention tank under the Homan's site. Any parking on the Homans site that would preclude the ability for our community flooding issues to be solved should be voted against.

I will close this email out by expressing my extreme disappointment in the Somerville Planning and Engineering Departments subpar efforts to work towards the Neighborhood Plan of Gilman Square currently being updated through a community process. I also believe there is a lack of a standard level of care being provided to the design at the bottom of Central Hill in Gilman Square, caused by tunnel vision, lack of communication and transparency, and old school politics.

I ask our city councilors to vote no on an elevator that does not provide full ADA accessible access from the bottom of Central Hill to the top of Central Hill. A comprehensive accessibility plan should be developed for the entirety of Central Hill and the Gilman Train Station.

I also request our city councilors do not propose or support parking (above or below ground) on the Homan's site until a comprehensive understanding of the impacts to Gilman Square's flooding issues, neighborhood plan, and traffic issues have been studied and that it is determined there will be no negative impacts to Gilman Square.

Thank you,

David Schrager



Somerville, MA 02145

Kimberly Wells

From: Grace Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:03 AM
To: All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Central Hill Elevator and Parking

Dear city councilors,

It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square.

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2. I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field.

- Teachers and City employees have a basic human right to have barrier free access to their classrooms and offices. Parking under the field or somewhere else at the top of the hill will provide accessible parking for teachers and other city staff.
- Parking at the bottom of Central Hill does not support this statement as the School Street and Medford Street Hills do not meet the slope guidelines of ADA, and therefore is not a viable solution.

3. I DO SUPPORT the development of the Homan's Site as green space with active retail and housing focusing on transit oriented design.

4. I DO SUPPORT the design and development of water and storm water upgrades to combat the extreme flooding that occurs during rain events in Gilman Square and combat the environmental impacts that are contributing to Climate Change.

- Flooding issues are a major environmental, financial and health burden on Gilman Square residents and should take priority in any site designs on the Homans Site.
- One of the major infrastructure projects being planned is a large storm water retention tank under the Homan's site. Any parking on the Homans site that would preclude the ability for our community flooding issues to be solved should be voted against.


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I ask our city councilors to vote no on an elevator that does not provide full ADA accessible access from the bottom of Central Hill to the top of Central Hill. A comprehensive accessibility plan should be developed for the entirety of Central Hill and the Gilman Train Station.

I also request our city councilors do not propose or support parking (above or below ground) on the Homan's site until a comprehensive understanding of the impacts to Gilman Square's flooding issues, neighborhood plan, and traffic issues have been studied and that it is determined there will be no negative impacts to Gilman Square.

Thank you,

Grace Murray

 Somerville, MA 02145

Kimberly Wells

From: Jonathan Kilpatrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:02 AM
To: All City Council; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Gilman Square development

Dear city councilors,

It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors, to put parking on the Homans site which I believe is short-sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square.

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2. I DO SUPPORT the city funding underground parking for teachers under the high school playing field.

Teachers and City employees should have a basic right to barrier free access to their classrooms and offices. Parking under the field or somewhere else at the top of the hill will provide accessible parking for teachers and other city staff.

Parking at the bottom of Central Hill does not support this statement as the School Street and Medford Street Hills do not meet the slope guidelines of ADA, and therefore is not a viable solution.

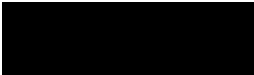
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Thank you,



Kimberly Wells

From: Christine Carlino [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 10:39 AM
To: All City Council; Gilman Square Neighbors; City Clerk Contact
Subject: Central Hill Elevator and Parking

Dear city councilors,

It has come to my attention that a proposal has been put forth to spend \$10M on an elevator that does not provide accessibility to the Gilman square T-Station and which by virtue of its construction would preclude parking being built under the high school playing fields. This resulted in proposals by the Somerville Planning Director and Director of Engineering, as well as many city councilors to put parking on the Homans site which is short sighted and causes additional environmental, financial and health issues for the people living and working in Gilman square.

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Thank you,

Christine Carlino

 Somerville MA 02145