

2016 OCT 31 AM 11 49
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

October 31, 2016

Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

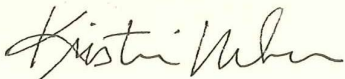
Dear City Councilors,

I'm writing in support of my neighbor Rene Becker, owner of Shepard restaurant the Hi-Rise Bakery and cafes, with the hope that a solution will be found that will not destroy his livelihood. These businesses are intertwined and a risk to one threatens the others.

I've lived in the Observatory Hill neighborhood for about thirty years. In my mind the arrival of the Hi-Rise bakery in 1996 stimulated the transformation of business on Concord Avenue. The bakery is a lively presence, draws customers to the area, contributes to an attractive streetscape, provides jobs for many and is a catalyst for other businesses. There is an ecology of sorts where the businesses, old and new, create a thriving environment. This area of shops, restaurants, markets etc. makes urban living for the surrounding residential neighborhoods attractive and convenient.

Urban living is not the same as suburban or rural life. We rub shoulders with one another all the time. It's not quiet, fresh aired or always pretty. We tolerate the down side for the plus side. For the past year Rene has worked with the City and at great expense to provide a solution for Shepard's neighbors. I hope the City will continue to work on a solution that will not wreck the Hi-Rise/Shepard businesses.

Thank you.



Kristin Mahon
267 Concord Avenue #1
Cambridge, MA 02138-1336