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Dear City Council Members:

October 31, 2016

I understand you have received complaints from neighbors regarding the smell of wood burning in Shepard's kitchen and asked the Council to order a stop to all wood burning cooking at restaurants in Cambridge. I also understand Shepard has installed scrubbers in their flue exhaust to mitigate any particulate to approximately 90% in response to neighbors requests. I believe this order by the Council is wrong for the following:

1. It does not refer to a criteria to meet, could establish a slippery slope for other fire burning in the city
2. It sends a frightening message to all who want to invest in our community: Do so at your own peril, since a few people who do not like your business might come together and pressure the City Council to put you out of business.

We have lived at 26 Shepard Street for 40 years, when Chez Jean was the restaurant at 1 Shepard. Since 1975, I walked home from work past the restaurant and I currently see no change in smell or particulate. In some ways, there is less as Chez Jean and Chez Henri cooked with lots of fat and there was a more distinct odor.

We do smell our neighbors fireplace burning and barbeques all the time. We live 70 feet next to a 30 unit +/- apartment building at 32 Shepard all with fireplaces that burn any and all types of wood and other matter. Any restriction on a restaurant(s) could be coupled with restrictions on the hundreds of fireplaces in Cambridge. In addition we smell neighbors awful barbeque odors in the spring and summer and have no recourse to tell them to stop this practice. Will the City Council be consistent and stop all fireplace wood burning and outdoor barbequing year round?

We value Shepard's contribution to making this a friendly neighborhood. This is a local Cambridge grown business and we are very concerned about what this kind of Council Order would say about the social contract in Cambridge. If an entrepreneur risks a huge amount of money to start a community oriented establishment, neighbors complains, the

business spends significant money to ameliorate the problem, nearly everyone is happy with the results, but, a few dissatisfied citizens decide to take matters into their hands, and press on. If the City yields to these few citizens, it sends a frightening message to all who want to invest in our community: Do so at your own peril, since a few people who do not like your business might come together and pressure the City Council to put you out of business.

I sincerely hope the Councilors do not to go down this path as it would be an awful course to take for a few disgruntled residents.

Thank you,

Ron Axelrod