To Cambridge City Councilors, City Manager, and Members of the City of Cambridge’s Public Safety Committee:

My Name is Manraj Gill, I am a graduate student at MIT. I am writing today on behalf of the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC), which represents around seven thousand MIT students. Many of us are Cambridge residents and I, myself, have been living in Cambridge at Windsor Street for the past 3 years.

The GSC strongly supports policies that protect the rights of all students, and earlier this year passed a statement in support of policies that address racial inequality in the public safety infrastructure. Specifically, the statement asks for the allocation of funds towards social service based public safety programs wherein, for example, dispatches for welfare calls be conducted by unarmed social services.

In light of this, we are asking you to support the HEART program’s implementation and funding request. This is a collaboratively-built alternative response program that utilizes evidence-based practices to address inequalities in the public safety infrastructure and is designed to be transparent in its processes to the community it serves.

Additionally, as initially outlined in the HEART proposal and subsequently approved in PO#114, it is important to ensure that the HEART program can operate freely in order for it to effectively serve the most marginalized and vulnerable members of our community.

Thank you.
-Manraj

References
2021.03 MIT GSC Statement on ‘Reforming Policing and the Public Safety Infrastructure to address Racial Inequality’
2021.05 PO#114: Cambridge HEART Proposal
2021.12 Cambridge HEART Phase II Update