

1264 Beacon Street, Unit 2
Brookline, MA 02446
August 10, 2016

Brookline Board of Selectmen
333 Washington Street
Brookline, MA 02446

Subject: Public Comment on JCHE KI/384 Harvard Street project.

Dear members of the Board:

The JCHE proposal to build affordable senior housing on property owned by Temple KI at the corner of Harvard Street and William Street in Brookline holds great promise for the Town.

I am writing as a Brookline advocate for seniors. I am a co-chair of both the Brookline Community Aging Network and the Brookline Age-Friendly City committee. BrooklineCAN has hosted a meeting of its Livable Community Advocacy Committee where representatives of JCHE made a presentation about the proposal. The proposal was very well received among those present.

The proposal has abundant attractive qualities. Brookline has a great need for additional senior housing. JCHE's proposal to rent all of the units in the new building at submarket-rate prices is particularly welcome. The location is excellent because of proximity to both Coolidge Corner and the Senior Center. The location provides opportunities for collaboration with the Senior Center and Center Communities buildings on Centre Street. The proximity to Devotion School also suggests possibilities of useful intergenerational activities with elementary school students.

As the planning process moves forward, JCHE can be expected to work cooperatively with the Town to address various predictable concerns associated with a significant new building proposal. JCHE has already made a number of useful adjustments in the proposal to address concerns of neighbors. We can be confident that the process ahead will lead to a valuable and much needed new housing resource for seniors who want to live in Brookline.

I urge the Board of Selectmen to continue to support the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis G. Caro".

Francis G. Caro