

December 13, 2016

Good evening. My name is David Williams, a resident of Stetson Street since 1998 and a Brookline resident since 1989. I'm here also to offer my perspective as president of the board of Congregation Kehillath Israel.

I fully support the JCHE project.

At KI we reviewed our space needs more than five years ago and determined that our facilities were far too large for our needs. In particular we concluded that the Community House—where the JCHE project is planned—would not be a part of our long-term facility. We held extensive discussions with our membership and decided that we would select a mission consistent, non-profit partner to develop the property even though this would mean foregoing the higher price tag that could be obtained from working with a commercial partner. This decision was not taken lightly, because the funding is important for the synagogue's future.

This project will benefit the community in several ways, and I'm proud to stand behind it. JCHE has done all that we asked and more. In fact, JCHE is a model that as concerned Brookline residents we should ask all other developers to emulate. Consider:

- 100 percent of the units will be affordable
- The project is only as large as it needs to be in order to be financially viable, and no larger
- The community has been consulted through multiple meetings and its feedback taken into account
- The architecture will match its surroundings
- There will be community space
- JCHE will provide services to the broader community
- No green space is being displaced; the lot is fully built out now

The status quo for this parcel is not an option. KI does not intend to maintain its current use under any scenario.

At KI we will be celebrating our Centennial in 2017. We've been in the same place for 100 years and intend to be here for hundreds more. On behalf of our board I wholeheartedly endorse the JCHE's plan and look forward to working with JCHE and all of our neighbors to advance the goals of affordable housing and community benefit.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by David E. Williams, 26 Stetson St., Brookline, MA 02446