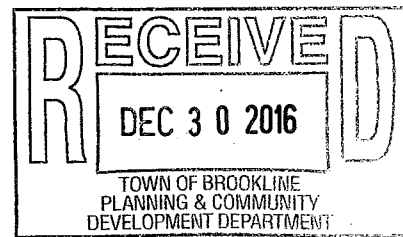


TEMPLE SINAI

A vibrant, progressive community



December 28, 2016

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Assistant Rabbi for Engagement

Shoshana Meira Friedman

Rabbi Emeritus

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Alison Steinfeld, Director, Planning & Community Development Department
Town of Brookline
333 Washington St
Brookline, MA 02445

To the Board of Selectmen:

We are writing once again to express Temple Sinai's grave concern about the building project being proposed at 1299 Beacon Street. We have reviewed the revised plan but continue our strong opposition to this building project.

While the size of the 1299 Beacon Street building has been slightly reduced, the proposed building is still out of scale with the rest of the Coolidge Corner neighborhood. The height, size and density of the project continue to be of concern to us.

However, our more significant objection relates to the safety of the people living in the neighborhood, particularly the children who attend Temple Sinai's Religious School.

The address of the proposed building is on Beacon Street, but because the rear of the building faces Sewall Avenue, the project has an equal if not greater impact on Sewall Avenue. The plans for the proposed building indicate that its loading dock and parking access will be from Sewall Avenue. This part of Sewall is a one way, narrow street which is already jammed with traffic and with parked postal trucks and double-parked cars.

Consider Sewall Avenue at the present time. The very popular Trader Joe's market sits at the corner of Sewall and Longwood. The parking lot of that market is so congested that it needs to be monitored by a paid parking attendant. Continuing down Sewall, one sees that it is clogged with postal trucks and the coming and going of postal workers who need to access the rear of the Main Brookline Post Office. (The Main Brookline Post Office is immediately adjacent to the proposed building.) At the end of that short



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block is Temple Sinai. The only entrance to Temple Sinai's Religious School is on Sewall Avenue. In addition to the 160+ children -- pre-schoolers to high school students -- who come down Sewall to attend our Religious School we also rent space to several other schools, including some for toddlers and their parents.

The street is already congested and difficult for public safety vehicles to transverse. Now consider adding to it the loading dock and parking garage for the proposed building. An already congested street could easily become impassable for large segments of each day. At some times, there will be no way for an ambulance or fire truck to get down the street.

The revised design of the project does nothing to address our significant safety concerns about the project. This new construction would worsen an already serious public safety problem. Delivery trucks and the additional cars traveling down Sewall Avenue or waiting to get into the 1299 Beacon's garage cannot be supported by a small street like Sewall Avenue.

Temple Sinai reiterates its strong support for the concept of affordable housing in Brookline. However, the negative impact of this unsuitable project to the current users and residents of Sewall Avenue is substantial. It has the potential for seriously undermining the safety of Temple Sinai's Religious School students and our temple members and we feel the project should not be allowed to move forward.

Once again, we urge you to contact state officials to deny approval for this project.

Sincerely,



Nora Abrahamer
President



Linda Katz
Executive Director

officially representing the Temple Sinai community

Cc: Maria Morelli, Brookline Planning Department