

From: Elizabeth Michelman [<mailto:ezwordz@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 8:47 PM
To: Maria Morelli
Cc: davy; eli jones; cecily jones
Subject: Proposed development at 111 Cypress St.

To: Town of Brookline Planning Board

Re: Proposed development at 111 Cypress Street, Brookline

Dear Sirs:

My family has resided at 53 Brington Road for fifteen years. I am writing to express personal and public safety concerns about the over-sized design being considered for an oversize residential development at 111 Cypress Street that would physically and visually block the corner of Brington Road.

The towering height and projection of the front corner wall in the current design will dwarf the building on the south corner of Brington and Cypress. It will make the shared gateway to the Brington Road neighborhood feel impersonal, forbidding, and disconnected.

I have raised two children who have depended on public transportation and walk at all hours of day and night to get to school, employment and social engagements. Their personal safety and lack of fear coming and going requires having clear sightlines at this corner, a sense of being visible from Cypress Street, and a belief that neighbors know of and care about their presence. This sense of personal safety will be diminished by a tightening of the visual space at the corner. The entryway Brington Road will look like a narrow, hidden alley. This appearance will convey the perception that it is cut off and unwatched, and it will offer a clear invitation to strangers bent on property crime and personal attacks.

A more enlightened design for a residential building would address public safety at the corner by emphasizing a sense of connectedness to, rather than alienation from, the life of the neighborhood. For example:

1. A lower roof-line that melds with the height of current residential structures on Brington Road;
2. A more generous setback at the corner of Cypress and Brington to counter the appearance of a blind alley; and
3. The interactive impression of attractive windows and activity at street level on both streets.

Greater consideration of these concerns would preserve the safety and peacefulness of Brington Road's gateway and "pocket" for our new neighbors as well as ourselves.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Michelman

David H. Jones

Eli P. Jones