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From: "**Cindy Goldstein**" <[cbgoldstein@comcast.net](mailto:cbgoldstein@comcast.net)>

Date: Wed, Jan 25, 2017 at 10:18 PM -0500

Subject: 1299 Beacon Street hearing

To: "Neil Wishinsky" <[NWishinsky@brooklinema.gov](mailto:NWishinsky@brooklinema.gov)>

Cc: "Alison Steinfeld" <[asteinfeld@brooklinema.gov](mailto:asteinfeld@brooklinema.gov)>

Dear Chairman Wishinsky and Board of Selectmen,

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of the many Brookline residents who will be affected by the proposed 40B project at 1299 Beacon Street.

As a long-time volunteer at the Brookline Food Pantry which serves over 950 households in our town, I am keenly aware of the need for secure and affordable housing. I work with and speak to many people every week who voice their thanks for the support and care that our town extends to those who need help. They appreciate the quality of life, the services, and the sense of safety that living in Brookline allows them. As residents of Brookline, we all appreciate these things.

I am writing to express my opinion that *any* project that might be proposed for 1299 Beacon Street that includes a Sewall Avenue parking entrance and exit for 100 cars would pose an extreme safety hazard to pedestrians. Add to that the unpredictability and queuing consequences of car elevators and valet parking plus an inadequate surface parking lot, and the problems are multiplied. For the many reasons already stated at the meeting and in previous discussions of the original plan for 1299 Beacon, the additional traffic caused by the comings and goings of at least 130 residents, many caregivers (This is, after all, an over 55 community.), visitors, shoppers, employees, and delivery workers would imperil the many pedestrians who walk, live, shop, and attend classes and religious services in the neighborhood. And ironically, the same dangers would eventually affect the residents of, visitors to, and shopping patrons at 1299 Beacon should they choose to walk in the neighborhood.

Despite the reduction in number of units and parking spaces, the safety and traffic issues remain just as significant as in the original proposal. And, with the removal of parking for Trader Joe's from the 1299 Beacon site, the need for surface parking in the area will increase, only exacerbating the presence of cars driving down Sewall Avenue in search of a (legal or illegal) parking space.

Having resided in Brookline for over 40 years, my husband and I made a conscious choice to live closer to the heart of Brookline in Coolidge Corner. We never take for granted that we have a unique quality of life here in a town where we can walk everywhere and feel safe. The addition of this proposed building—whether it be a 40B project or not— would compromise all of that. We *all* deserve better.

Sincerely,

Cindy Goldstein  
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