

May 9, 2018

TO: Members of the Town of Brookline Zoning Board, Brookline, MA 02446

I am a resident of 70 Sewall Avenue, Unit 7 writing in regards to the proposed 10-story building at 1299 Beacon Street with projected parking entrance/exit on Sewall Ave. I am concerned about the impact of an additional 99+ cars on the pedestrian and vehicular congestion on Sewall Avenue for the following reasons:

- 1) The parking access to the proposed building would be directly between two highly trafficked areas - the Post Office loading docks and the Trader Joe's parking lot. The short stretch of Sewall Avenue between Longwood and Charles Street is already a pedestrian and driving challenge. Post office trucks are often double (and triple) parked - requiring pedestrians (many of whom are elderly) to walk in the center of the road in the path of oncoming cars.
- 2) Throughout the day access to the Trader Joe's parking lot (directly next to the proposed 1299 garage entrance) is clogged with cars approaching from three directions (Longwood Ave, Harvard St. and Sewall Ave) – necessitating security guards directing traffic, as well as an abundance of shopping carts and pedestrians with strollers, canes, walkers and motorized wheelchairs.
- 3) The location of Temple Sinai on the other side of the post office compounds the traffic back-up on Sewall Ave. as parents drop off and pick up their children from afternoon school,
- 4) Sewall is a one-way street from Longwood to Charles Street (the site of the proposed entrance to the 1299 Beacon garage) with parking along one side, and the resulting single lane of traffic often clogged with cars. Cars frequently back up as they turn left onto Charles St. where a very slow traffic light at Charles and Beacon allows a maximum of four cars at a time to pass.
- 5) Cars merge in the opposite direction from Sewall onto Charles St where they are forced to turn right onto Charles where Sewall becomes a one-way street. This traffic back-up is pronounced at morning and evening rush hours, where cars frequently make U-turns when they realize they might wait for several minutes to get through the light at Charles and Beacon.
- 6) Even where Sewall is a two way street (St. Paul to Charles) the street has become dangerous for pedestrians. Post office and delivery trucks frequently park making it difficult to see traffic approaching in either direction as I exit my driveway. (And cars speed through in frustration with the Charles St. slow traffic light.)

How will the area integrate additional residential, delivery and retail vehicular traffic of the proposed 1299 Beacon garage when current traffic patterns are already an accident waiting to happen? The safety concern this raises for any residential population, much less one with a high proportion of elderly residents, are unconscionable.

Thank you,

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