

**STATEMENT AT BROOKLINE ZBA HEARING
RE: 1299 BEACON STREET**

My name is Felice Mendell and I have been a member of Temple Sinai for almost 13 years. For many of those years I was co-chair of Tzedek@Sinai, which is our temple's social justice arm and I am still a leader in this work. I have also worked professionally in affordable housing for more than 25 years, including 8 years as Executive Director of an affordable housing development nonprofit in Boston.

I am a member of Temple Sinai because of its commitment to social justice.

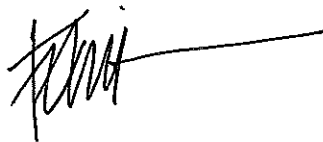
Other members are here to talk in detail about our concerns with this project, but I will mostly focus on the Temple Sinai's commitment to social and economic justice, racial equity and affordable housing -- and why we would like to be able to support a project that provides more **affordable housing in Brookline**.

Social Justice is one of the **4 strategic pillars of Temple Sinai** and many of our members have worked hard with other faith-based institutions on a number of important equity issues, most recently including criminal justice reform, immigration, food insecurity and affordable housing. Our temple is a very active member of GBIO—Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and our Rabbi is a committed leader in this work.

We are very much in favor of more affordable housing, especially in Brookline.

However, **the currently designed proposal for 1299 Beacon Street is overbuilt and will create dangerous conditions for public safety** on Sewell Avenue, which is already too congested, considering the number of people, **especially children**, who use it. Since the building almost entirely covers the site, this design **does not allow for the proper management of vehicular, pedestrian, goods delivery and trash pickup**, leaving the street to accommodate overflow and resulting congestion. I believe the footprint of this project must be cut back for the sake of public safety.

Temple Sinai's social justice organizing leadership team, just had its monthly meeting a couple of Sundays ago and we resolved that Tzedek@Sinai is committed to ensuring that more affordable housing be built in Brookline and that it would be in favor of an affordable housing project at the 1299 Beacon site **should Temple Sinai's significant concerns about safety satisfactorily be addressed.**



May 1, 2019