



# TEMPLE SINAI

A vibrant, progressive community

July 5, 2019

**Rabbi**

Andrew D. Vogel

**Education Director**

Heidi Smith Hyde

**Executive Director**

Linda Katz

**Student Rabbi**

Talia Stein

**Student Rabbi**

Sam Blumberg

**Part-Time Cantor**

Maayan Harel

**Rabbi Emeritus**

Frank M. Waldorf

Jesse Geller, Chair  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Town of Brookline  
333 Washington Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

To the Brookline Zoning Board of Appeals:

We are writing to voice Temple Sinai's continued unease about the building project being proposed at 1299 Beacon Street. We are neighbors several doors down from the project. The main entrance to our building is on Sewall Avenue, a street which we feel will be dangerously impacted by the proposed building.

We feel the proposed building at 1299 Beacon Street is being overbuilt for its size, location and impact on public safety. We feel it needs a smaller footprint, and pulled back significantly from Sewall Avenue in order to handle its vehicular and pedestrian needs -- instead of spilling into the street. This is true for both long term and for the construction period. We feel that whatever units which might be eliminated by shrinking the building footprint can likely be made up by increasing the building height.

Because the structure will almost entirely cover the site, conditions are created which are dangerous for everyone in Temple Sinai's community, particularly our children. We are troubled by the proposed management of pedestrians, vehicular traffic (especially for emergency vehicles) and deliveries on Sewall Avenue.

We are cognizant of the potential dangers posed to the community during the lengthy construction phase of the project. We have not seen a traffic

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mitigation proposal from the Transportation Department and cannot expect current traffic loads down Sewall Avenue to continue during the construction phase in light of the recently released construction plan.

Let us be crystal clear: our objections to this project are wholly based on our concerns for the safety of our members – children and adults – and of our neighbors. Temple Sinai reaffirms its commitment to affording housing in Brookline, the community we serve.

We ask that the Town of Brookline impose limitations and restrictions on the design and construction of the 1299 project which will assure the safety of the residents of Temple Sinai's members and the Brookline community.

Sincerely,

*Yuval Gilbert*  
Treasurer and  
Chair, Building Committee

*Charles Homer*  
President

Cc: Maria Morelli, Brookline Planning Department