

From: Lisa Coady [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Maria Morelli
Subject: 500 Harvard Street

Maria,

I am writing to you about my concerns regarding the 40B apartment building that will be built at 500 Harvard Street. I live at 12 Kenwood Street which is just opposite the current parking lot at 500 Harvard and I have been told that you are managing this "project".

I am supportive of providing low income housing in Brookline...I understand the need and support the effort. At the same time I am deeply concerned about these builders who I have seen in action at other meetings and in operation at the corner of Thorndike and Harvard, which is months behind completion and which has been a nightmare for residents and neighbors in terms of noise, access to Thorndike, traffic on Harvard street and lack of access to sidewalks at an already congested intersection (especially for seniors and kids), and dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. Several weeks ago they strung bright lights up that encircle the top of the building and are on all night. Two weeks ago I called the police to report that a section of the lights had become unattached and were swinging in the wind. It still has not been taken down or repaired.

My concerns regarding 500 Harvard St. are the amount of trucks, vans, machinery etc..that will be jamming up Kenwood and make it inaccessible to residents, package delivery trucks, special needs school buses , garbage trucks etc., Kenwood Street is a one way street and is the access street to Verndale, parts of Columbia Street and Russell Street.

My suggestion is that the town tell the builders that they must park their trucks and vehicles on Harvard Street which has metered spots and NOT allow them free rein to block off Kenwood street. We have to be realistic about how many trucks will be there every day and for a very long time. And we have a very busy Chabad House just opposite 500 Harvard which also brings in traffic and Large and Busy Funeral home on the next block which brings in many cars.

In the initial plans, the builders were planning on 25 apartments and offering only 6 parking spots! Shouldn't the town tell the builders they must provide parking for all the units they are renting and disabuse them of the romantic notion that they are just going to attract/accept renters who don't have cars?

Another concern I have is that the size of the building they are proposing would be grossly larger than any of the other apartment buildings that run from 500 Harvard towards Commonwealth ave. and not suited to the harmony of the neighborhood. It will block out light, cast shadows on adjacent properties and block the 12 windows of the adjacent apartment building. Why should we allow them to build something so unsuited to the neighborhood?

Finally, with the addition of this building, our neighborhood will have Four New Apartment Buildings from Fuller St. to Kenwood St. That is a Four block or Five street area. The traffic will be unprecedented and very difficult for the neighborhood to absorb.

I hope you can appreciate the challenge this is presenting to our neighborhood and I desperately hope we can find some logical solutions to make this less of a nightmare for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lisa Coady/ Michael Maso
12 Kenwood Street