

From: Anna Kolodner [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 1:36 PM
To: Maria Morelli
Subject: 500 Harvard Street

Ms Morelli,

I am a resident of 26. Columbia Street and I am writing to oppose the proposed building for 500 Harvard Street.

As a resident at this address for 27 years I find the recent Building boom of large apartment buildings on Harvard Street to be fundamentally changing the character of our neighborhood. There seems to be a disproportionate and excessive amount of these buildings in close proximity to our homes and clustered in this part of North Brookline. I am unaware of any such buildings being built so close to homes in for instance, South Brookline.

This project, like the others shows a blatant disregard for the historic style of the neighborhood which includes many Victorian houses. The project at 500 Harvard Street is particularly egregious in its scale, height, proximity to Harvard street and importantly its style. This proposed building, much like the other building now under construction by the same developers, looks like an office building, with bright red bricks, no decks or outdoor space, little architectural detail and no regard for the architecture of the abutting houses. I cannot imagine that either the developers or anyone who is making decisions about this building would want it next to their personal homes. Many of the houses in this neighborhood are assessed and valued for their character which draws people to our neighborhood. This property will diminish and devalue the existing homes.

The impact of another building of this size will impose hardships on the existing residents. Many of our houses are multi family homes with limited parking. Many have to park cars in tandem and already spend time looking for spaces on our street to move our cars which are taken up by people who regularly park without permits, guests, and those commercial tenants who get "special" permits allowing them to park on our streets, such as the tenant of Blue Door Mortgage Company. The addition of new tenants and their guests at 500 Harvard Street (in conjunction with the other buildings being constructed) will severely stress the existing parking situation. This is a neighborhood of families with children who walk to school and will now have to negotiate more cars entering and leaving the building, more delivery and trash vehicles, and an overall unsafe increase in cars and traffic. The traffic on Harvard Street is currently often backed up for blocks and it has become increasingly difficult to enter Harvard Street from Columbia, Kenwood, Fuller and Coolidge Streets. The proposed building will make this situation intolerable.

As one of many homeowners who pay significant taxes to the town of Brookline, I would ask that the Zoning board take under serious consideration the objections our community has to this building and help us protect the nature and quality of our neighborhood and North Brookline in general which seems to have been singled out as the target for this overbuilding.

Thank you,
Dr. Anna Kolodner