

Dear Ms. Morelli,

As abutters of this proposed project at 500 Harvard Street, we are happy to hear about plans for more housing in Brookline, more affordable housing in the neighborhood, and the opportunity to provide that housing without compromising away space, safety, clean air, and road congestion to cars from our new neighbors.

Approving the application, as is, with 6 parking spaces means we can maximize the space and funding available to provide as many units as possible to address our housing needs. It also means we will bring 30 new households to our community who do not want or need to devote our scarce land and other resources to car parking and the resulting ill effects of increased auto travel.

As residents just across the street, we can vouch for the ability of families, including families with young children, to live in this location car-free and car-light. With access to the 66 bus, multiple branches of the Green Line, Blue Bikes stations nearby, improving micro mobility infrastructure, and yes, even car rentals like Zipcar when they are needed, life at 5 and 7 Verndale Street as well as life at 500 Harvard Street does not need a car, nor the pre-emptive decision to make space for dozens of them.

Further, by reducing the availability of car parking, developments such as this can help further out Town-wide goals of climate sustainability (car parking *is* fossil fuel infrastructure), of health and safety from reduced emissions¹, reduction of injuries and death caused by car crashes, and of encouraging more growth within the existing character of dense, urban, and livable North Brookline.

We look forward to welcoming our new neighbors at 500 Harvard Street into our homes, our schools, our businesses, and all of the shared public spaces in Brookline that make this an appealing place to live.

Thank you,

Dina Aronzon, 7 Verndale Street
Lee Biernbaum, 7 Verndale Street
Omar Hajiz, 5 Verndale Street
Sarah Hajiz, 5 Verndale Street
Matti Klock, 5 Verndale Street
Mark Romanowsky, 5 Verndale Street

¹ Even electric vehicles produce dangerous particulate matter emissions from tires, brakes, and road dust resuspension at low speeds.