

Support for 500 Harvard Street Proposed Development

Beth Klein <kleinbeth@comcast.net>

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To: Maria Morelli <mmorelli@brooklinema.gov>

Good morning,

I am unable to attend the hearing this evening regarding the above property but I wanted to voice my wholehearted support for affordable units, especially those at the 50% AMI threshold.

Approximately four years, I was stunned to find that I no longer could afford to live in Brookline despite having lived here since the late 1970's and having owned two condos. The housing costs soared way past my income from a career in human services. The reality of my situation was difficult to understand. I had always planned on remaining in Brookline.

It was by chance that I heard about the lottery for affordable units at 45 Marion Street. Finally, when Danny Danesh called me to tell me I had "won" a unit through the lottery and he wanted me to come in to meet him, I remember sobbing on the phone. There are hundreds of people like me who are experiencing housing insecurity with little or no options. The only way I can repay my debt of gratitude to the 40B program or other affordable housing options is to work on behalf of others.

I am involved with Brookline for Everyone, the citizen-based housing justice and advocacy group and I know they support this development. This is a quote from their email dated 2/15/21:

" This location is a prime spot for more housing development - walkable and transit-accessible, and includes much needed moderate-income affordable units. Our current Housing Production Plan from 2016 identifies "Opportunity Corridors" for new housing, which includes this property. It's a shame we've already negotiated away increased commercial space and housing units - let's not let the whole project disappear."

This excerpt expresses my sentiment and I encourage the Town and the Danesh family to negotiate a successful outcome.

Thank you for your attention.

Beth Klein
45 Marion Street #610