

ZBA & 500 Harvard 40B

Patti <pierce.reich@gmail.com>

Wed 3/31/2021 11:37 AM

To: Maria Morelli <mmorelli@brooklinema.gov>

Cc: cleis@brooklinema.gov <cleis@brooklinema.gov>

Dear Ms. Morelli,

I reside at 32 Verndale Street in Brookline. My husband and I have been following the development of 500 Harvard Street closely. We truly appreciate all the hard work the Zoning Board has put in to develop this property with some standard of what is normal.

As you have shepherded this project towards approval "normal" has become a loaded word. Congress just passed a federal bill that provides funds to help us back to a more regular life. Included are funds to defray costs increased by the pandemic. The developers pointed out that lumber and other construction costs have doubled over the last year, which I know to be true. They add that this is one reason they need the sixth floor. It seems to me they should be able to get a federal loan that would defray their increased costs, allow them to brick the entire outside of the building, and still make money on only 5 floors of apartments. Many of these loans do not require repayment, so the cost is born by the neighborhood taxpayers, not the developer.

Such a plan would serve the purpose of the Federal Bill very well by enriching the community with a more manageable sized building, rather than burdening the developer with Pandemic construction costs and the neighborhood with a tremendously outsize building forever. The developers consider themselves good business people, thus the loan should be attainable and help them do business.

It seems to me a winning solution is before us and we should take advantage of it.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pierce
32 Verndale Street
Brookline MA 02446