



TOWN of BROOKLINE
Massachusetts

FIRE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

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Zoning Board of Appeals
ATTN: Jay Rosa
333 Washington St.
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Subject: The Residences of South Brookline Development

This development has always been a concern due to several fire and life safety issues. We, the Fire Department, are being asked to protect a larger number of people while a more densely populated neighborhood is created. The travel distance for my responding apparatus and crews falls outside the National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) recommended standard for all but the first Engine Company. Fires in the development will have a longer period of time to grow, thereby increasing the dangers to the occupants and my firefighters tasked with extinguishing the fires and performing any necessary rescues.

I have reviewed the most recent plans for Hancock Village. While some areas still concern me, the developers have modified their plans greatly in order to accommodate my requests. They have included a traditional turn-around in one location and provided for marked suitable access to the rear of the larger structure to be built. They have removed the free standing garages along one parking area, reducing that fire potential, and have improved access to the area closest to the Parkway. They have also agreed to aggressively seek approval for limited egress from that area onto the parkway for emergency vehicles, thereby reducing the need to back-up fire apparatus.

While the increase in life safety risk (more people) and the extended travel time for much of my emergency response still exists, improvements have been made from the original plan which greatly reduce the originally proposed risk levels.

Respectfully,


Paul D. Ford
Fire Chief