



Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

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March 17, 2015

Ms. Katherine Lacy AICP
40B Specialist
MassHousing
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Lacy,

The Housing Advisory Board (HAB) is charged with advising the Selectmen on affordable housing policies and programs as well as promoting the creation and preservation of housing that is affordable to individuals and families of low and moderate income.

The HAB and Housing Division staff have reviewed the proposal for a 20-unit 40B project at 21 Crowninshield Road. While we do believe that the site could accommodate affordable housing, we encourage the developer to work with the Planning Board, the Board of Appeals, and the neighborhood to create a building design and site plan that is more compatible with the residential, architecturally coherent Crowninshield neighborhood. We can provide several successful examples of affordable housing developments, including St. Aidan's and Olmsted Hill that show how thoughtful design can better integrate these projects into the surrounding neighborhood.

While the HAB serves as the Town's designated advocate for affordable housing in Brookline, our board has directed its primary concerns, within the larger planning and regulatory review process, to each project's affordable housing component. If site eligibility is awarded by MassHousing, the HAB expects to review and comment upon the details of the proposed project's affordability components including, for example, the size, distribution, and salient features of the

designated affordable units, as well as key provisions of the housing affordability covenants designed to assure permanent affordability.

The Town of Brookline has engaged in longstanding, creative and fruitful efforts to create, promote, and preserve multi-family and affordable housing—efforts that have been recognized by the Commonwealth. For decades, Brookline has committed significant Town resources—both human and financial—to these efforts and has made measurable progress by creating and preserving over 2,000 units of affordable housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger Blood".

Roger Blood, Chair
Housing Advisory Board