

Maria Morelli

From: Judith Vanderkay <jvanderkay@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 5:02 PM
To: Maria Morelli
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Safety concerns about 420 Harvard Street 40B proposal

Dear Maria,

Thank you for your research regarding this proposed project, and your willingness to convey citizens' concerns about the proposal to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Although I am very dismayed by the outsize scale of the building, which would tower over all of its surroundings, I am especially concerned about the safety issues it would bring. For example:

Pedestrians – Fuller Street is a major route for children to get to the Devotion School, which will increase its population in the next few years. Kids won't necessarily be attentive to cars coming in and out of a garage. This is also a primary route for seniors from the Centre Street residences to get to Harvard Street for shopping, synagogue services, etc. With the increase in Devotion capacity and the expected elderly housing to be built at Kehillath Israel, foot traffic and risks are only going to grow.

Emergency vehicles – again, Fuller is a major route to and from the Center Street senior housing buildings. Emergency vehicles make the trip there daily. If they can't get past a queue of vehicles waiting to get into the building, there could be serious harmful results. Even a few minutes delay could make a large difference in outcome. Fire engines and ambulances could be delayed on their way to other locations as well.

Traffic queues could easily extend well onto Harvard Street and block the progression of vehicles there – all of these delays would increase air pollution emitted by idling vehicles, and if they involve trucks, pollution of the most harmful kind.

And, with essentially no setbacks, how would fire engines deal with **fires** at the building itself, or at the properties next door? You may already know that for the recent Butcherie fire, the Fire Department used the parking lot on Fuller to access the flames.

Even if the parking system works perfectly, there will be many **commercial vehicles** coming to a 36-apartment structure that won't use the garage – think FedEx, PeaPod, Amazon, even USPS. Where will they park while they make their deliveries or provide services to building tenants? There is no provision for these trucks, and they will end up blocking traffic on the street, exacerbating issues already mentioned, or blocking the sidewalk and creating serious hazards for pedestrians. I saw this today on Fuller Street. And a lot of them will likely keep their engines running, adding to pollution.

What about **trash trucks**? Dealing with recycling and trash from 36 apartments is not the 10-second stop that it takes for a single-family home. And surely they don't propose to have 36 trashcans and toters on the public sidewalk waiting for pickup?

Finally, the **construction process**, with the proposed building so close to abutters, could be hazardous to neighboring structures. Not to mention the potential for contamination being unearthed during the excavation, due to the property having been used as a mortuary for many years.

Sincerely, Judith

-- Judith Vanderkay, TMM Precinct #9 and Library Trustee
33-year resident/owner of 16 Columbia Street