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Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Arlington,, Massachusetts 02476

Mrs. Mahon & Gentlemen:

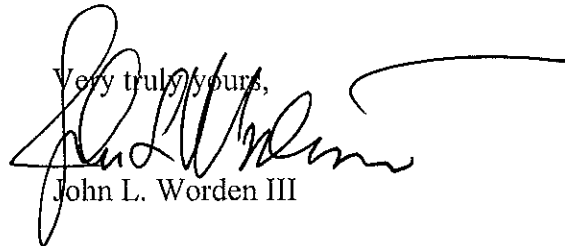
When I saw "PUBLIC HEARINGS" for CDBG performance update for 2015-16 and requests for FY 2016-17 on your agenda for February 22 (items 4 and 5), I assumed that there would be an opportunity for the public to participate. As you may recall, that did not occur. Accordingly, I am writing to provide my comments.

With respect to grant allocations for 2016-17, it should be a condition that the recipients agree to follow all Arlington laws – the Zoning By-Law, the Historic District By-Law, and the general By-Laws. The impetus for this request is that Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA), despite knowing that Town Meeting had twice voted resolutions against the use of Chapter 40B in our Town, used funds allocated by the Town on a 40B project, even hiring a 40B lawyer from Cape Cod to appear multiple times before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

As HCA also knows or should know, they could have asked Town Meeting for a map change to extend the high density residential zone on the south side of Lowell Street to cover the property they bought (zoned R-1) between Lowell Street and Westminster Avenue. HCA has heretofore done a lot of good work in the Town, utilizing the six or seven million dollars that has been allocated to them over the years, and I certainly have no objection to converting the former church structure into affordable housing. But to seek that goal via 40B instead of in accordance with the laws we have made to regulate development in our community was both insulting and unnecessary - and ironic when you consider other worthy applicants seeking not millions, but a few thousand dollars for their programs.

Although we are presumably safe from 40B under the 1.5 per cent criterion, imposing such a condition for future recipients who may be tempted to bite the hand that feeds them would be prudent.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Worden III", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John L. Worden III

cc: Ms. Raitt