

From: "Jenny Raitt" <JRaitt@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "Asia Kepka" <asiakepka@gmail.com>
Cc: abunnell@town.arlington.ma.us, ebenson@town.arlington.ma.us,
klau@town.arlington.ma.us, dwatson@town.arlington.ma.us, "Mary Muszynski"
<MMuszynski@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2019 14:37:58 -0400
Subject: Re: Increased Density

Asia,

Thank you again for your comments. Please note that I removed Andrew West from the distribution list as he is no longer an ARB member.

Best,
Jenny

Jennifer Raitt
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From: Asia Kepka <asiakepka@gmail.com>
To: abunnell@town.arlington.ma.us, ebenson@town.arlington.ma.us, klau@town.arlington.ma.us,
dwatson@town.arlington.ma.us, awest@town.arlington.ma.us, Jenny Raitt
<jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2019 14:09:31 -0400
Subject: Re: Increased Density

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 GO8A0548.jpg
 GO8A0552.jpg
 GO8A0566.jpg

Dear members of ARB,

My apologies for mistakenly sending previous email - it was a quick draft.

Thank you for your hard work towards making our community a special place .

At the last ARB hearing one of the real estate agents mentioned our town of Arlington its way behind Cambridge and Somerville when it comes to development.

As i watch housing prices and traffic congestion spike in those communities - i'm grateful we are behind i can still afford to live here.

I write to you as East Arlington resident of 20 years. I always say no matter if i win lottery - i would not move bc i love my neighborhood. I share my vegetables from my front yard with neighbors who walk by on their way from work. Sometimes that dictates what they will make for dinner. That compensates for many problems that come with living in less than ideal spot.

I live inclose proximity of Mirak owned property - very close .Most of my house is in shadow. According to proposed changes many other residents may see their next door neighbor cast deep shadow on their house or drown out sunlight completely . It's not pleasant and it affects quality of one's life on daily basis.

Every time work has to be done on the building - workers have to access it via my property. My garden gets trampled even when they are careful. When work is done poorly - which was the case with painting the building - you get stuck with peeling paint, sanding , painting and peeling paint again . My garden has been covered with paint and it has been frustrating. Because the building has no place to put snow - i get plowed in every time i clear my driveway.

Increased traffic to and from Lehey Clinic that opened in 2008 caused constant trash thrown into my garden from passing and parked cars on daily basis. Visitor to the clinic discarded cigarette onto mulch near entrance to the building and within minutes my whole back yard was gone. If it wasn't for my stone patio between fence and my house - i would have lost everything. Despite this event - i see smokers all day long smoking outside same building.

I hope you can keep in mind that close proximity of new developments will mean increased danger in fire safety to existing and new houses. Many low income or middle class residents like me cannot afford to move and our homes are everything. Proposed changes will sure be great for real estate business but we as tax payers should be considered too.

There has not been one example shown how proposed changes have made another community better. More pavement and reduction in open space has only increased environmental risks .

As someone who has friends in wheel chairs and friends with strollers i look at proposed changes in reduction of required front green space with frustration. Narrow sidewalks mean no sidewalks during snow days for disable people.

When looking at certain homes one can guess which home provides opportunity for children to grow healthy and balanced lives.

I'm attaching photo of my house and few homes that were recently purchased in my neighborhood as well as 887 Mass Ave with " caged minimal green space". All examples are housing families with children- it's pretty clear which one we need more of to raise healthy kids. Once the proposed changes pass most of new residents will have little chance to compete with developers who will have clear path to building big luxury condo complexes that turn biggest profits.

Thank you

Asia Kepka

17 Silk st.









