

From: Beth Elliott <bmelliott@gmail.com>
To: jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: Mon, 18 May 2020 09:19:39 -0400
Subject: 882-892 Mass Ave

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Dear Ms. Raitt,

My name is Beth Elliott, and I reside at 98 Highland Ave, Arlington, MA 02476.

Please accept my comments in support of the proposed demolition of the property currently located at 882-892 Mass Ave and its replacement with a multi-story mixed use development. I support this project for the following reasons:

1. It will provide much needed additional housing in Arlington, including affordable units.
2. The scale of the proposed building is consistent with the neighborhood, as there are existing multi-story apartment buildings within one or two blocks on the same side of Mass. Ave. that are the same height or taller than the proposed structure. The proposed set-back of the top floor, in addition, reduces the visual impact of the building from the street.
3. The incorporation of commercial space on the ground floor is consistent with the current usage of the space and will therefore harmonize with existing development patterns.
4. Although the proposal would reduce the sidewalk width, the sidewalk in front of the current building are significantly wider than the sidewalks on the same side of Mass. Ave immediately north and south of the site. Even lessening the sidewalk in the area of the current bus stop would not shrink the sidewalk/bus stop area in a manner inconsistent with other bus stops nearby along Mass. Ave. As a commuter who uses this bus stop frequently, I have no concerns that use of the bus stop will be made more difficult nor pedestrian traffic impeded.
5. This is an excellent site for housing from a transit/walkability perspective, due to the bus stop and the many amenities available within walking distance, such as multiple grocery stores, the Arlington public library, and several local restaurants. The inclusion of significant bike parking, both long and short-term, will also encourage residents to make use of bike travel as well. I would therefore expect the additional traffic generated by this development to be negligible.

Thank you,
Beth Elliott