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Date: July 2, 2020 at 7:31:56 AM EDT
To: "jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us" <jraitt@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: Hotel Lexington

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Dear Ms. Raitt,

I hope I am not too late to submit comments to you on the issue of the proposed hotel/restaurant. I will admit that I had hoped that the downturn in the economy would lead the builder to give up the idea, but apparently that is not the case, as the hearing is still scheduled. I have attended all the hearings on this issue and will be present for this one as well.

My husband and I own a townhouse in the two-building Shaker-style condo complex at the corner of Mass Ave and Burton Street. Our 35 year old deaf son lives with us. When school is in session, many of the middle school students walk or bike past our home. I can see, from my kitchen window, that many of them ignore the crossing guards and instead just cross Mass Ave in the middle of the street. The recent bicycle accidents on this block have sadly illustrated the additional dangers of the intersection of Appleton Street and Mass Ave. There will be a dramatic increase in traffic on this block when the 140 units of the Mirak project (which I strongly support) are completed. It is troubling that the Lexington Hotel builder, having neglected to do a traffic study while school was in session, now proposes to draw on studies done in the past; one has to ask how meaningful those studies will be.

Other concerns:

The hotel will have only valet parking for guests, so the guests with cars will likely choose to have their cars retrieved from the garage in the morning and then park them on the street during the day, so they can easily come and go. Restaurant customers will also park on the street. Where will the customers of the dry cleaners and the mosaic studio and animal clinic and the beauty salon park? We already see commuters take the spots on Burton Street early in the morning and ride the bus into Cambridge and Boston for the day.

The builder of the hotel has promised that there will be no idling of buses in front of the hotel, as they wait to load guests going to Lexington, but what will they do in the heat of summer? Leave the engines and air conditioning off as the driver and passengers stand outside in the heat until it's time for the bus to leave?

It is hard to support the concept of a hotel that is apparently named to attract tourists who google "Lexington hotel" and will want to *leave* Arlington to tour Lexington. All the neighbors abutting our home share my concerns and attended all the hearings which were held before the pandemic. Many of them have lived in Arlington all their lives, but they are not all so zoom-proficient and I fear that you will interpret their absence from hearings now as indifference. It is troubling to think that such a big decision is being made when community participation is so challenging. I hope that when a final decision is made you will recall the community turnout and concerns voiced at that first meeting in Town Hall last year....

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara McCauley

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