

Good Morning,

I live in the neighborhood Thorndike Place is proposed along with families with school aged children, working couples, retired couples and some single, working people in two family or single family houses. A 176 unit apartment building is not keeping with current footprint of the neighborhood.

Based on previous construction in the neighborhood over the past five years, construction equipment and delivery drivers go wherever they want. Regardless of one way or no entry signs, they seem to be exempt from following the rules. Trucks idle while waiting their turn to deliver equipment or materials. The additional traffic of construction equipment, worker's vehicles, material delivery vehicles and finally vehicles of the occupants and guests will have a negative impact on all of us living in the neighborhood.

In a healthier time, we had block parties. Dorothy Road was closed at the Parker Street end. You had a chance to meet your neighbors, share food, listen to music and enjoy the diversity of our neighborhood. Children and adults now ride their bikes in the road. Street hockey, scooter races and basketball is played on our streets. On Halloween there was a parade of kids walking in costumes. Chalk decorating parties in the road in front of someone's house to celebrate a birthday. These simple, pleasures most likely will become a memory.

There has been flooding on Dorothy Road. I've watched people pile sandbags at the end of their driveways and in front of their garages to reduce the amount of water coming into their basements and garages. Dorothy Road it self has flooded. We are in a climate change. Building on a wetland will not stop the flooding. When it floods, the elevator, if Thorndike Place is built, will not be usable. Anyone with a disability will be unable to leave their unit without assistance. The proposed underground garage will flood. Who will tow 176 cars?

I understand that the Mugar's want to make a profit. But at what cost to our community? I have four questions.

1. How many of the 176 units are designated for low income housing?
2. Has the impact on Hardy School enrollment been assessed?
3. Units will be rented, not owned. Is this really different than a commercial structure in a residentially zoned area?
4. Can you justify building in wetlands that is a flood zone and place vulnerable people, anyone there?

I ask that all of you come and walk in our neighborhood. Get a feel for the impact this structure will have on the people who live here. This massive building will impact not only Lake Street and neighborhood traffic but our property values. The closer a house, the greater the resale devaluation. It's a fact. It doesn't matter if the structure is a church, school, factory or restaurant. Few would choose to be their neighbor. We chose this neighborhood for the qualities it has now. Please help us keep the current footprint.

I oppose the building of Thorndike Place and respectfully ask that you vote no.

Thank you for your time and for serving on this board.

Barbara Rowland  
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